



# NAAC NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

[www.alternativecertification.org](http://www.alternativecertification.org)

*The voice for alternative certification in education*

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## President's Column

### *The Need for Quality Indicators*

Alternative certification has become a catchall phrase for the myriad programs that prepare people for classroom teaching and other careers in education. For many, "alternative routes", "nontraditional pathways", and other phrases better describe the numerous options available to people who seek to become teachers. Whatever terms we use, the proliferation of new teacher preparation programs offers great opportunities to attract tens of thousands of talented teachers into the profession each year. With that opportunity, comes the responsibility to ensure that alternative certification programs, like all teacher certification programs, are preparing the highly qualified educators that all children deserve.

One of the great strengths of alternative certification is its diversity. Diversity comes from tailoring programs to meet the unique needs of local school systems, such as a need for math and science professionals, bilingual speakers, or a more ethnically diverse teaching force. Diversity comes from tailoring a program to meet the complex needs of today's teacher candidates, such as the need for coursework delivered during evenings, on weekends, or online, and the need for practical training that aligns with each individual's teaching situation. But diversity does not mean that "anything goes." Highly effective programs share certain key characteristics, and we can all benefit by identifying those characteristics and encouraging programs to adopt them. Those who were pioneers in alternative certification, as well as those who are new to the field,

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## Alternate Routes: Building a Highly Qualified Teaching Force *2007 Joint Conference*

For the first time, the National Association for Alternative Certification will team with the National Center for Alternative Certification to host an annual conference on alternate routes to certification. The conference, *Alternate Routes: Building a Highly Qualified Teaching Force*, will be held April 3-6, 2007 in Washington, DC, where both organizations are headquartered.

"Our members have made it clear that they would prefer having one annual conference addressing alternate routes," says Dr. Nell Ingram, NAAC president. "We believe everyone involved in alternative certification will benefit from the larger, unified meeting." Dr. Emily Feistritzer, president of NCAC, added that "holding a joint conference will be to everyone's advantage. I'm pleased we've begun this new collaboration." The conference is expected to attract more than 400 participants, and will feature five general sessions, more than 70 break-out sessions, exhibits and networking opportunities.

The Call for Presentations is available on NAAC's website, [www.alternativecertification.org](http://www.alternativecertification.org). The submission deadline is December 15, 2006. Early bird registration is available through January 31, 2007.

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Please visit the NAAC website at  
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## President's Message

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all have a stake in ensuring that alternative certification programs are accountable to the teaching profession, and to the students and families we serve.

The NAAC board has committed to developing and disseminating quality indicators that guide how alternative route programs prepare new teachers and evaluate their effectiveness and ultimate impact on student achievement. We are convening a national task force on Quality Indicators for Non-Traditional teacher Preparation Programs and invite our members to get involved. NAAC board secretary Belinda Gimbert will chair the task force, and Becky Washington, associate director, academic services, Region XIII Education Service Center in Austin, Texas, will serve as co-chair. We are in the process of selecting task force participants, and would like to hear from members who are interested in serving. To express your interest, please contact Dr. Gimbert directly at [belinda.gimbert@nn.k12.va.us](mailto:belinda.gimbert@nn.k12.va.us).

The task force will develop research-based guidelines for what constitutes an effective non-traditional teacher preparation program. The result will be nationally recognized indicators that:

- Promote the key characteristics of effective programs;
- Provide benchmarks that assist programs as they mature; and
- Provide a measure for evaluating program success.

Quality indicators will provide the framework needed to bring rigor to the concept of alternative certification and enable it to fulfill its potential. We are excited about launching this much-needed project and look forward to sharing the results.



Dr. Nell Ingram  
President

## Conference

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The 2007 conference, which is NAAC's seventeenth annual meeting and NCAC's fourth, will be held at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, during Washington's celebrated National Cherry Blossom Festival. Favorable hotel rates will encourage participants to bring their families and stay extra days to enjoy the city in full bloom. The conference venue is ideally located within walking distance of the Capitol, the National Mall, and historic Union Station.



Jesus Reveles, New Mexico Department of Public Education, at the 2006 NAAC annual conference.

Preconference workshops will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2007. On Wednesday, April 4, the official conference will open with a full day of keynotes and break out sessions, and an evening networking reception. The conference will adjourn at midday on Friday, April 6. Sessions will cover topics such as:

- What makes an alternative teacher certification program a model of best practices,
- Research findings on alternate routes,
- Meeting the challenges of No Child Left Behind,
- Effective mentoring and induction,
- Proven recruitment techniques,
- Successful retention strategies,
- The role of partners and collaborators,
- The value of a diverse teaching force,
- Innovative uses of technology in your program,
- Processes that lead to success, and
- Hurdles to overcome.

The preliminary agenda and registration materials are also available online at [www.alternativecertification.org](http://www.alternativecertification.org).

## Transition to Teaching: FY 2007 Grants

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement is anticipating publishing the notice for the FY 2007 Transition to Teaching grant competition between mid-December and early January. Approximately 65 grant awards are expected to be awarded. The estimated range of awards is from \$150,000-\$750,00 per year. The actual level of funding depends on the final Congressional appropriation. For more information go to [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) and click on the Grants & Contracts information center.

If you are interested in serving as a peer reviewer for the grant competition, please forward your resume to Anthony Sepulveda of the Transition to Teaching program staff at [Anthony.Sepulveda@ed.gov](mailto:Anthony.Sepulveda@ed.gov).

## Call for Manuscripts Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification

*The Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification* invites members and non-members of NAAC to submit manuscripts on issues related to alternative certification. The research manuscripts should focus on quantitative and/or qualitative research that has implications and applicability for practitioners and/or policy makers involved with alternative certification. The featured article manuscripts should focus on issues related to policy, positions, and methodology. Manuscripts will be double blind peer reviewed.

There is no set date for manuscripts submitted to be considered for publication in the *Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification*. Every attempt will be made to notify authors of the decision of the double blind review within three months. If a decision to publish is offered, the manuscript will be scheduled for publication as soon as suggested editing is completed by the author and accepted by the editor assigned to the manuscript.

### Include in the Submission:

- 1) **Cover page:** List Title of Manuscript, topic, date of submission, main author's name, mailing address, home and work

phone numbers, e-mail addresses, institutional affiliation, and biographical information about author and any co-authors (30 words or less per author).

- 2) **Abstract:** Describe the essence of the manuscript (100 words or less). Do not include your name on the abstract or the manuscript.
- 3) **Manuscripts must use the American Psychological Association (APA)** style throughout. References, charts, tables, figures, and graphs must be written on separate pages. Manuscripts must be no longer than 25 pages, including charts, tables, etc. Use single space between lines, 12 point font size, and 1.5" margins on each side of the pages.
- 4) **Manuscript Submission Address:** Send two copies of the manuscript in Microsoft Word as email attachments to [Dr. Bill Neal](mailto:Dr. Bill Neal), JNAAC Managing Editor, Southeastern Louisiana University, SLU 10671, Hammond, LA 70402. In one copy include your contact information and affiliation and in the other copy omit that information for the blind review.

*Mark your calendar!*

## 2007 Joint Conference of the National Association for Alternative Certification and the National Center for Alternative Certification

APRIL 3-6, 2007  
HYATT REGENCY  
CAPITOL HILL  
WASHINGTON, DC



## Membership Application

Membership in the National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC) is open to all educators and policy makers. We welcome members from universities and colleges of education, and from agencies authorized by law or regulation to conduct or approve licensure or certification programs. Students and interns in educator preparation programs are eligible to join NAAC, as are all other persons interested in and supportive of the organization's goals. Members receive the **NAAC Journal**, **NAAC Newsletter**, and discounts on NAAC Conference registration. For more information, go to [www.alternativecertification.org](http://www.alternativecertification.org).

**Regular membership dues are \$50.** Members of NAAC's State Associations in California, Louisiana and Texas receive a discounted membership for just \$25 per year.

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_
- Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
- Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
- Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fax: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category:

- Regular Membership: \$50
- Discounted Membership for State Association Members: \$25  
State Affiliation:  California     Louisiana     Texas

### Submit form and check to:

NAAC  
PO Box 5750  
Washington, DC 20016

### Federal ID Number:

54-1822255

For more information contact Judy Corcillo at 202-277-3600 or [judyc@alternativecertification.org](mailto:judyc@alternativecertification.org).

## State Affiliate News

The **California Association for Alternative Certification** (CAAC) held a joint California BTSA and Intern Directors' Statewide Conference November 14-16. The joint conference was held at the Sacramento Hyatt with 500 registered participants. The theme for the Conference was, "Learning to Teach: Bridging Professional Learning Communities". Featured speakers included Dr. William McBride, Russlynn Ali, and Victor LaCerva. Dr. McBride is a National Educational Consultant and author, "Girls Will Be Girls, Boys Will Be Boys: Teaching to Gender Differences". Russlynn Ali, Executive Director, The Education Trust—West, discussed challenges and choices facing our newest teachers in "Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps: What a New California Teaching Force Needs to Know". Victor LaCerva, M.D., Retired Medical Director, Family Health Bureau, State of New Mexico, spoke on "Healing the Healer Within".

Paula Lovo, President, presided over the CAAC meeting. Michael McKibbin, Administrator, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, reported on the Intern Year in Review, which included a report on data, new developments and expectations, and program accountability. Belinda Dunnick Karge reported on the Intern Program Monograph for California Special Education 2006. Rex Fortune gave an update on the legislative activities in California affecting intern issues and funding. Leo Kirchoff, NAAC Region 1 Director, reported on the upcoming 2007 Joint NAAC and NCAC Conference to be held April 3-6 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.

Meetings with California Intern Region Directors were held with Region One, Corinne Muelrath; Region Two, Brenda Fikes; Region Three, Don Beauregard; Region Four, Mary Lewis; Region Five, Gary Kinsey; and Region Six, Nina Winn.

The **Louisiana Association for Alternative Certification** (LAAC) hosted the first statewide conference on November 4, 2006 at the University of Louisiana, Monroe. The conference theme was "No Practitioner Left Behind: Addressing Teacher Quality Through Alternative Certification." In attendance were 96 administrators, faculty, and interns in alternative certification programs. Nell Ingram, president of NAAC and executive director of the Dallas ISD Alternative Certification Program was the keynote speaker. For more information on LAAC, contact Glenda Holland, president of LAAC and associate dean of the College of Education and Human Development, University of Louisiana at Monroe, at [holland@ulm.edu](mailto:holland@ulm.edu).

The **Texas Alternative Certification Association** (TACA), will hold its annual winter retreat January 21-23, 2007 in Austin. The meeting, which is being hosted by the Region XIII Educator Certification Program, will be held at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown. Speakers will include Karen Noonam, director of educator standards, and Corey Green, senior director, NCLB Program Coordination, both of the Texas Education Agency, and Alex Martin, executive secretary, Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators. For more information on the retreat, go to <http://kids.esc13.net/taca> or call 512-919-5343.



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