



NAAC NEWSLETTER

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The voice for alternative certification in education

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President's Column



Becky Washington
NAAC President

Recently, the National Research Council released "Preparing Teachers: Building Evidence for Sound Policy," a report culminating six years of study by a panel of 24 distinguished scholars. The panel concluded what many others have reported: that there is not enough data and research to draw conclusions about which approaches to teacher preparation are most effective or how to design better ones.

We welcome the growing national interest in expanding research into what aspects or characteristics of teacher preparation programs lead to improved teacher effectiveness and student success. At NAAC, we believe that the impetus for non-traditional pathways grows from the understanding that there are myriad factors that impact excellent teaching, including characteristics of the teacher candidates, the school setting they are placed in, the characteristics of the students to be taught, the timing and method of delivery of instruction in the teacher preparation program, the amount and focus of instruction provided, the formal and informal support available to candidates, and so much more. Therefore it is critically important that multiple pathways to preparation exist to meet the array of needs demanded by specific communities for teachers that will be most successful in their unique settings.

We also believe that quality should never be compromised in the pursuit of more efficient school staffing; quality must be a focus of every non-traditional and traditional teacher preparation program. This belief is at the core of our initiative to develop national Quality Indicators for Non-traditional Teacher Preparation Programs. We welcome the opportunity to work with researchers to continually seek new evidence that refines our vision of quality and supports best practices in the preparation of all teachers.

NAAC 2011 Annual Conference: *Innovations in Educator Preparation*

Chicago will host the 21st annual conference of the National Association for Alternative Certification, March 9-12, 2011 at the DoubleTree Magnificent Mile. The conference theme is *Innovations in Educator Preparation: 21st Century School Staffing*.

NAAC recently published the Call for Proposals for the meeting online at www.alternativecertification.org. All NAAC members will receive a copy by mail as well. NAAC invites proposals for sessions that address one of the five strands:

- Innovations in Recruiting, Selecting, Preparing and Supporting New Educators
- Preparing Teachers to Engage 21st Century Students
- Effective Solutions to the Needs of Diverse School Systems
- Successful Partnerships
- Meeting the Quality Imperative

Proposals are due October 1, 2011. NAAC is accepting proposals for 45-minute and 60-minute break-out sessions, as well as briefer, highly interactive roundtable discussions. In addition, we are inviting proposals for special sessions geared specifically toward new interns which may vary in length from two to three hours.

Online registration for the conference will begin in July. Start planning now to join NAAC in the Windy City next March!

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NAAC at AERA

NAAC executive director Judy Corcillo participated in a panel discussion on *The Current and Future Landscape of Teaching and Teacher Education* at the Division K Town Hall meeting during the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association. The meeting was held on Saturday, May 1, 2010 in Denver, Colorado. Other panelists included James Cibulka of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, Frank Murray of the Teacher Education Accreditation Council, Sandra Robinson of the University of Central Florida and a board member of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, and David Ritchey of the Association of Teacher Educators. The discussion was moderated by Arnetha Ball, former vice president of Division K and current president-elect of AERA.

The invited panelists discussed their organization's vision for the future of teacher education and the need for research and policy to support effective reforms. Corcillo's remarks focused on the two-pronged research agenda jointly developed by the NAAC Research and Publications Committee and the NAAC Policy Committee. The NAAC research agenda emphasizes 1) studies that address policies at the local, state, and national level, and 2) studies that empirically assess teacher preparation practices and performance-based outcomes. Within this research agenda, seven foci are identified:

1. Supply and Demand
2. Retention
3. Program Implementation and Assessment
4. Attributes of Candidate Populations
5. The Impact of Nontraditional Educators on Student Learning Outcomes
6. Employment, Support, and Performance Issues
7. The Impact of Nontraditionally prepared educators on the Overall Educator Workforce

For a copy of Corcillo's remarks, go to the the NAAC website at www.alternativecertification.org and click on the new Research and Reports tab.

NAAC Region 2 Meeting in Kansas City: August 8-9

The second annual NAAC Region 2 summer meeting will be held August 8-9 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The meeting is scheduled to piggy-back with several other events, including the NAAC summer board meeting and the summer conference of the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE).

NAAC Region 2 members may attend just the Region 2 meeting, or may register for the entire ATE conference. All participants may book rooms through the ATE hotel room block.

The NAAC Region 2 meeting will provide participants with an opportunity to collaborate and form partnerships for a variety of outcomes which could include publications, future grant work, or simply resource exchange. In addition, participants will be able to identify a topic or need relevant to their area or program and interact in an afternoon workshop-style forum focusing actions around that topic. Actions could include developing a collaborative presentation for the NAAC annual conference, beginning a white paper around a common research interest, investigating opportunities for collaborative projects and sharing of resources, etc. Topics could include areas of program refinement as identified in the Quality Indicators, content specific topics relevant to STEM, ELL, policy issues or other areas of common interest.

For more information and to let organizers know about your intention to participate, please send an email to Judith.Hayes@wichita.edu.

NAAC Region 2 includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

NAAC Program Sites *Update your information*

Members of the National Association for Alternative Certification are encouraged to complete a Program Survey to ensure that your alternate route program is listed on our website. To access the online survey from our website (www.alternativecertification.org), click on the Program Sites tab.

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Visit the NAAC website at
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to find an electronic version of
this newsletter and more.

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RESOURCES FOR YOUR INTERNS

Help your interns acquire the classroom materials they need through a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping teachers request donations online. Started in 2000 by a teacher in the Bronx, DonorsChoose.org provides a website that teachers use to post their specific requests and donors use to make direct donations. Any full-time public school teacher may post a request. According to Melanie Duppins, Director of Program Expansion Partnerships at DonorsChoose.org, 75% of all requests of \$400 or less have been fully funded. To date, more than 75,000 projects have been funded.

Along with online donations from individuals, the organization receives philanthropic funding that is often aimed at specific geographic areas or teachers in specific fields. For example, they currently have a commitment to distribute approximately \$3 million to California teachers, primarily in the fields of math and science. DonorsChoose.org recognizes that new teachers are especially in need of donated materials and reached out to NAAC as a way to connect with alternate route interns. Check out their website at www.donorschoose.org.



National Association for Alternative Certification
21st Annual Conference
March 9-12, 2011
Doubletree Magnificent Mile
Chicago, IL

NAAC Membership Application

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Membership Category:

- Individual Membership -- \$50
- Intern/Student -- \$15
- State Affiliate Member -- \$25

Circle one:

California

Louisiana

Texas

Submit form and check or purchase order to:

NAAC
PO Box 5750
Washington, DC 20016

For more information contact Judy Corcillo at
202-277-3600 or judyc@alternativecertification.org.