



NAAC NEWSLETTER

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Advocating Educator Excellence for Every Student

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President's Column



Becky Washington
NAAC President

Every December, I find myself writing a holiday letter to send to all my friends and family. It is always nice to reflect on the year and remember all the wonderful events that have occurred. As I

write this column for our NAAC December newsletter, I find myself in the same frame of mind: *What are the wonderful, exciting events that have occurred in our organization this year?*

First, we had a great annual conference in Nevada. We had wonderful attendance; we added an intern strand; we added a professional development day prior to the conference; we had an abundance of great breakout sessions; and a highlight for me—I began my term of office as your president.

Since that time, our Quality Indicator project has continued to move forward and piloting has occurred at two program sites and is just finishing with three more programs. During 2011 there will be several additional pilots that will guide our refinement of the tool and continue the efforts for assuring that it fulfills our goal of providing an instrument to assist programs in a continuous improvement process.

We have continued to work as a board to put systems in place that allow, and enhance, our abilities to function as a growing national organization, representing our membership at a new level. Our board has created a Standard Operating Procedures manual to guide the work of the organization as we move forward.

We have developed a committee structure that will encourage member involvement in our work. We have solidified the role of our state representatives and continue to use them as our prime communication pathway and an avenue for enlisting new memberships and voices from programs from around the nation. We have enhanced our website and continue to work to improve it so that it is the "place to go" for information on non-traditional teacher preparation and innovative school staffing and resources. *Continued on page 2*

NAAC in the Windy City

2011 Annual Conference: March 9-12 in Chicago

The National Association for Alternative Certification is hosting its 21st Annual Conference in Chicago this March. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to experience distinguished keynote speakers, professional development workshops, breakout sessions, and invaluable networking opportunities. The conference runs Wednesday, March 9 – Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the Doubletree Magnificent Mile, located between the Magnificent Mile shopping district and the excitement of the Navy Pier.



Rita Pierson

This year's confirmed keynote speakers include Rita Pierson from North Star Education, Victoria Bernhardt from Education for the Future Initiative, Jo Anderson from the US Department of Education and Kathleen Paliokas from the

Council of Chief State School Officers.

Conference participants will enjoy unique Chicago experiences, including a special performance by Wavelengths, the comedy troupe best known for its hilarious twist on education's hot issues, and "dine-arounds" offering a chance to join colleagues for informal dinners at favorite Chicago restaurants.



Victoria Bernhardt

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President's Column *continued...*

Our Executive Director, Judy Corcillo, has been asked to participate on panels with AERA to discuss the future of research around teacher preparation. We have developed a response to the federal court ruling in California concerning the highly qualified status of teachers not fully certified, using surveys and holding conversations with members and colleagues in the teacher preparation arena. We have also responded to NCATE's Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation and Partnerships for Improved Student Learning and continue to monitor it.

It's been a busy and productive year and the future looks strong and exciting. I hope you are finding value in your membership and would desire a stronger and more active relationship as time goes on.

So, I'm very proud to have served this organization as your president this year and as a board member the previous three years. I'm honored to have served as the co-chair of the Quality Indicator Task Force. NAAC will soon be sending out nomination forms and information on open board positions. I hope you will either want to serve or support someone who wants to serve on our board. The open positions in 2011 are president-elect and treasurer. We also will be electing Regional Directors for Regions 1, 2, and 3. Region 2 is a one-year term to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Jim Pelech. The president-elect position is open due to the fact that I have had to resign as your president, effective March 12, 2011, as a result of a job change for me that will not allow me to continue to serve in this capacity. Belinda Karge will assume the presidency for the next two years, and Cyndy Stephens will remain as the immediate past president for the next two years.

I wanted to use this column to highlight the events of this year, because you need to be aware of the work that continues to occur through the leadership of your Executive Director, Judy Corcillo, and your board of directors. But I also needed to make you aware of my resignation. I wanted to assure you that you have a strong organization that should make you proud, and also assure you that I leave it in great hands. But the progress of this organization cannot continue without new people stepping up to the plate and taking their place in leadership. You will have an opportunity at the conference in March to indicate your interest in serving on committees or as a state representative. We know we cannot use everyone that is interested—but in fact it is great to have more interest than openings. That in itself speaks of a strong organization. So again, I urge you to consider becoming more involved.

I look forward to my final meeting with you in March. I hope EVERY ONE of you will make a strong effort to be there, and to attend every session, clear through noon on Saturday (it is always disappointing to see a much smaller participation in our Saturday morning session—and we have a great speaker again this year, so please make a commitment to stay to the end). Until then, Happy New Year.

NAAC Annual Conference *continued...*

The 21st Annual Conference will also include a special strand for interns, which was introduced at last year's conference. The NAAC Board encourages each alternate



Jo Anderson

route program to select at least one intern to attend the meeting as a professional development experience. The interns will have the opportunity to attend all the plenary sessions, and will have a unique strand of break-out sessions designed to meet their needs.

Earlybird registration discounts end on January 7! Find all the conference details and register online

today at www.alternativecertification.org.

New Mission and Vision Adopted by NAAC Board

At the August 5-6, 2010 board of directors meeting, the NAAC leadership adopted a new mission statement to drive the organization. The new statement reflects the expanding role of NAAC in fostering innovative nontraditional routes to certification and school staffing resulting in highly effective educators for every student. The newly adopted mission statement, which now appears on the NAAC homepage, reads:

The National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC) is the professional organization that advocates for standards-driven nontraditional educator preparation leading to effective school staffing. NAAC reviews trends and issues to inform practices and policies relevant to recruitment, preparation, certification, support, assessment, and retention of high-performing educators.

In addition, the board adopted a new tagline, "Advocating Educator Excellence for Every Student," which now appears below our name on our website, as well as on the newsletter, letterhead, and other official publications.

NAAC Elections

Nominations are being accepted for:

President-elect
Treasurer
Region 1 Director
Region 2 Director
Region 3 Director

Find position descriptions, terms of office, and nomination information on the NAAC website:

www.alternativecertification.org

Deadline for Nominations: January 24, 2011

NAAC Commends NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations for Teacher Preparation

The National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC) board of directors released the following statement in support of the November 2010 NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations for teacher preparation:

The National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC) endorses the recent Call to Action recommended by NCATE's Blue Ribbon Panel to transform teacher preparation. We believe momentum for this transformation has been developing steadily over the past thirty years, as successful non-traditional models for teacher preparation have emerged across the nation. In answer to the Panel's Call, NAAC responds as a key stakeholder and pledges to join in this effort.

Teaching is indeed a profession characterized by lifelong development, a profession in which practitioners learn more and more about their craft each year. We agree with the conclusion of the panel's chair, Nancy Zimpher, that "Teachers are the most important in-school factor in student success."¹ We also agree with the panel's co-chair, Dwight Jones, as he observed that "For this transformation to take place, school districts and teacher education programs will need to work together and take joint responsibility for teacher preparation programs..."

Each school where a new teacher candidate is placed must become a professional development school, staffed by mentors and support personnel from the school in partnership collaboration with faculty from the preparing institution. NAAC adds to the Panel's recommendation by calling for a coherent plan for more effective training of candidate school support personnel. Implied in the Panel's call for special certification of clinical faculty and mentors is training of a general nature.

We believe that mentors should be specifically trained by the preparing institution and the participating school district(s) through a collaborative effort. Just as we expect teacher candidates to differentiate training for their students, teacher education entities should differentiate mentor training to meet specific contextual needs of schools, mentors, candidates and their P-12 students. We believe such a mentor training effort, based in nationwide expectations of teacher preparation entities, would yield more direct benefits than fifty different sets of state regulations for mentors and coaches.

The "endemic unevenness in quality" of clinical training is hard to dispute and is disturbing to all who are

involved in teacher preparation, regardless of differences among program styles. Furthermore this unevenness in quality is a force of erosion undermining student achievement throughout the country. NAAC fully supports the Panel's recommendations for more research targeting what works in teacher preparation and for support of the national data network on teacher preparation suggested by the National Academy of Sciences. NAAC has a long history of supporting such research and recently renewed its call for a more robust data collection system for the nation's teacher preparation efforts.

NAAC applauds the shift to more direct involvement of school district personnel in the teacher preparation process. Selection of the right candidates for schools and students is crucial to successful teacher preparation and to improvement of student learning. The wealth of experience earned over the years by P-12 principals and other personnel is available to teacher preparation institutions for assisting with candidate selection as well as mentoring and evaluation. The Panel was correct in recognizing that no one group – district, program, union, or legislature – can effect this needed transformation by themselves. It will take all of us working together as partners, always with the most important goal in mind: Improvement of Student Learning.

Update on Ninth Circuit Court Ruling

The September 27, 2010, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on the case of *Renee v. Duncan* is a decision which had many educators wondering what it would mean for them personally and what it will mean for state policies regarding highly qualified educators. The case of *Renee v. Duncan* focused on parts of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, especially the definition of *highly qualified teacher*. The Continuing Resolution passed by Congress on December 21 to fund the government through March 4, 2011, included language which thankfully helps to clarify the status of alternative certification interns allowing them to continue to be considered highly qualified, at least for the next two years.

U.S. Representative George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee in the 111th Congress, released a statement on December 21 saying,

" In 2004, the Department of Education issued a regulation allowing teachers pursuing alternative certifications to remain in the classroom for up to three years until their certification is complete. In

Continued on page 4

Update on Ninth Circuit Court Ruling

Continued....

October, the 9th circuit court of appeals struck down that regulation. The language included in the CR will temporarily maintain current practice with regard to highly qualified teachers for the next two school years [emphasis added]."

Rep. Miller's statement added that *"The 9th circuit decision could cause major and unpredictable disruptions to schools across the country if it was to be implemented before Congress can fully address issues of teacher preparedness, effectiveness and access in the reauthorization of the ESEA. The language included in the CR is only the beginning of the conversation about the shift we need to make in our schools in regards to teachers and the measures of teacher quality. I look forward to continuing our efforts to rewrite ESEA in the next Congress."*

NAAC advocates for continuation of rigorous programs which prepare teachers for the classroom using non-traditional methods.

NAAC calls for changing the NCLB focus from "Highly Qualified" to "Highly Effective." Student learning should be the proper measure of productive teacher preparation, and every student in America deserves highly effective teachers throughout their schooling, regardless of the sources of the teachers' training.

NAAC advocates for a robust national data gathering effort, which includes all teacher preparation entities and all public school classrooms, with the goal of measuring how teacher preparation practices contribute to effective teaching and hence to student learning.

Call for Manuscripts

The Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification invites submissions of manuscripts on issues related to alternative certification. For more information, go to www.alternativecertification.org/journal.asp.

Congratulations to the 2010 NAAC Research Grant winners

Anika Ball Anthony, Principal Investigator
Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University
Belinda Gimbert, Co-Principal Investigator
Associate Professor, The Ohio State University
Rebecca Parker, Co-Principal Investigator
The Ohio State University
Utilizing Blended Learning Environments to Support Non-Traditionally Prepared Teachers: Impacts on Teacher Learning and Self-Efficacy

Jane E. Cole, Principal Investigator
Assistant Professor, Miami University
Exploring Mentoring Formats in a Hybrid Special Education Licensure Program

Research grant presentations will take place on March 10, 2011 during the NAAC Annual Conference.



REGISTER TODAY

National Association for Alternative Certification

21st Annual Conference

March 9-12, 2011

Doubletree Magnificent Mile - Chicago, IL

www.alternativecertification.org

**NAAC NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S
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NAAC Conference Scholarships for Outstanding Interns

The National Association for Alternative Certification will award \$1,000 scholarships to three interns at the 2011 Annual Conference. Interns were nominated by nontraditional teacher preparation programs from across the country, and selected by a review committee comprised of NAAC members.

The three scholarship winners, who will receive their award on Friday, March 10 during a general session at the annual conference, are:

Willy Flores, Hillcrest High School, Dallas, Texas
Gregory Wallace, Marist High School, Chicago, Illinois
Barbara Baganz, Joy James Elementary School, Fort Worth, Texas

This year, the NAAC board voted to award honorable mention to the next ten highest scorers in the scholarship competition. The ten honorable mention winners are invited to attend the conference and participate in the intern strand, however they will not receive any monetary award. The ten interns receiving honorable mention are:

Calvin Stocker, Project Chrysalis Middle School, Houston Texas
Sharon Tong, Nevada Union High School, Grass Valley, California
Clemmie Green, R.C. Burleson Elementary School, Dallas, Texas
Marco DeLeon, T.W. Brown Middle School, Dallas, Texas
Kristi Trahan, Pasadena Memorial High School, Pasadena, Texas
Susan Grommesh, Mead Middle School, Wichita, KS
Dawn Williams, Withrow University High School, Cincinnati, Ohio
Benjamin Glover, Gallegos Elementary School, Houston, Texas
Katherine Bastian, Hendrickson High School, Pflugerville, Texas
Amery McIntosh, Pasadena Memorial High School, Pasadena, Texas

Congratulations to all the outstanding interns nominated for this year's competition!

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

Attn: Judy Corcillo

PO Box 5750

Washington, DC 20016

For more information contact Judy Corcillo at 202-277-3600 or jcorcillo@yahoo.com

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