



Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Dear IACTE Members,

On behalf of the 2009-2010 IACTE Executive Committee, I want to welcome you back to another great semester for Teacher Education in Iowa. It has been my honor to serve as your president. As I reflect back on the past year, I must be careful not to blink! Wow, has it ever been a fast 365 days! I know it is bad form to use clichés, but it really does seem like it was just yesterday that you handed me the responsibility of leading our organization at Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

While we're all a year older, I hope that we're also wiser because of it. Last fall we meet in Ankeny at the DMACC campus to continue our work as an association on Core. While many of you were very well versed in the Iowa Core at the time, others like me used this opportunity to grow in our understandings of the many facets of the Core. Know that we will continue to examine the Core and how it relates to best practice for our candidates. Many of us are experts in areas identified as essential to Core. I put a call out to you to help lead higher education as we balance teacher preparation with State K-12 curriculum, instruction, and assessment mandates.

Over winter break, I, as well as many of you, helped to craft the State of Iowa's RTTT grant. We eagerly await the results of the first round of awards, knowing the great implications and change that will come about as a result of Iowa's success with this grant. It is my hope that higher education, specifically teacher education faculty, will continue to be a strong resource for the State as it rolls out and institutes the innovation contained within the grant. Know that IACTE will be especially vigilant as the State begins to establish systems linking student performance to teacher performance, and ultimately to institutions of higher education.

Just two weeks ago, I attended the AACTE annual conference in Atlanta and represented Iowa at the ACSR (Advisory Council of State Representatives) meeting along with Past-President Dave Whaley (ACSR Midwest region chair). Our meeting focused heavily on the changes in funding streams from the US Department of Education, noting Secretary Duncan's push for innovation and competition. While his office has increased total funding available under the ESEA, it has also opened the door to those who can compete for such funding. It is imperative that our programs remain aware of these changes and the implications that they hold for not only our programs, but for teacher preparation in the State of Iowa as a whole.

All of this work, of course, leads us to the spring 2010 IACTE meeting at Central College in Pella. Let's hope that the snow is gone and the tulips are popping up by the time April 8-9th roll around. You can find conference details on the newly renovated IACTE webpage. Many thanks to Barry Wilson for taking care of some much needed updates. The webpage address remains the same (www.iowacte.org), but you can now enjoy the opportunity to view photos and immediate links to teacher preparation programs across the state. Check it out when you have a few minutes!

Our spring conference is packed full of opportunities for you to continue looking forward into teacher preparation in the state of Iowa and at your respective institutions. I'm very excited to announce that Jane West, the Vice President of Policy, Programs and Professional Issues at AACTE will be our keynote speaker early on Friday, April 9th. As we look at the changing landscape of teacher preparation in Iowa, Jane West will examine with us new policy initiatives from the US Dept of Education impacting teacher preparation.

Come prepared to learn more about Congressional and Administration policies as well as opportunities for IACTE to influence them! In addition, Deans or Chairs are invited to meet with Jane West at a special session later on Friday morning to discuss, analyze and forecast teacher preparation trends in Iowa and the nation. Because space is limited for this session, we ask that only one representative from each institution attend, but please know that minutes from this meeting will be shared with the association.

In addition to Jane West, we have a variety of sessions that I hope will address your staff development needs. We'll have staff development as it relates to the new children's literature text sets that Arlie purchased for all of our programs. Attend the aMaze session and share with colleagues how you are using or plan to use this wonderful resource. We'll also have an opportunity for you to explore the latest technologies available for the higher education classroom and how such technologies can be used to advance the teacher education candidate. Finally, we'll have our very own peers from Graceland University share with us how to design, implement, and maintain a quality unit assessment system. Please see the conference schedule for details. In addition, we'll also have our standard Thursday meetings with the Board of Educational Examiners, and the Department of Education. Again, please check the webpage for more details.

Finally, last spring we began our tradition of recognizing outstanding folks and their contributions to teacher preparation in Iowa. We will again announce the winner of the IACTE award this spring. In addition, however, I would like to acknowledge any faculty from your programs and departments who will be retiring this year (lucky them!), so that we may thank them for their service and recognize their contributions. If you could kindly send me a brief email noting the name of the faculty member, name of institution, years of service and perhaps a special note about the individual, I will certainly recognize him or her at our business meeting on Thursday afternoon just before our social.

As always, I thank you for everything that you do to make teacher preparation in Iowa the best that it can be! I look forward to seeing you all at the spring conference as we bring another school year to a close. Until then, stay warm!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tracy".

Tracy Schuster-Matlock
IACTE President