



Dear IACTE Members,

On behalf of the 2009-2010 IACTE Executive Committee, I want to welcome you to another great year for Teacher Education in Iowa. It is my honor to serve as your president. Joining me on the Executive Committee are many outstanding faculty from a variety of institution from across the state. A list of the current board can be located at www.iowacte.org. New to the committee this year are Larry Bice of Clark College, Joen Rottler of Ashford University, and Deanna Stoube of St. Ambrose University. We are all looking forward to serving you and our community of teacher education programs.

If you were able to stay connected to your email this summer, you'll recall the work of Linda Fandel from the Des Moines Register. Fandel raised many questions regarding teacher preparation in Iowa. You can find her work at <http://data.desmoinesregister.com/education/worldclassschools.php>. I encourage you to take some time to review her work and discuss with your colleagues the true challenges programs face AND overcome as we work to develop effective teachers for tomorrow's classrooms. In addition to this work, IACTE has received some funding to host an Education Summit that will critically examine teacher development at all levels with representatives from a variety of organizations invested in teacher quality this spring at Iowa State University. Planning for this summit will begin in earnest later this month.

Moving on with the topic of effective teachers, I do want to share with you a recap of my participation in the *2009 State Leaders Institute* and *AACTE's 5th Annual Day on the Hill* last summer in Washington, D.C. Past-president Whaley and I attended both of these meetings, and you will be please to know that as Regional Chair, Dave Whaley represented not only our region, but the State very well among this group of national leaders. During these meetings, state representatives, much like Dave and me, worked with AACTE on developing policy concepts in a variety of areas. Following these meetings, we went to "the hill" along with other teacher educators from Iowa institutions where we were able to share with state representatives the successes and challenges of teacher preparation in Iowa. While this was a motivating and empowering process, I want to bring your attention to some "shifting and shaping" regarding candidate and program assessment systems at the national level. There is a current push from a variety of constituents to look at "Maximizing Data Capacity to Improve Teacher Preparation," (AACTE July 28, 2009 meeting). In some circles, governmental representatives have begun to speak of ways to track our graduates while examining the performance of their students on standardized tests. Their attempt

here is to explore teacher effectiveness and teacher preparation. Naturally, this is a very controversial topic for all of us. I'll keep you posted, but encourage you to stay up on AACTE communications through the member webpage as well.

Finally, I want to personally invite you to the fall IACTE meeting on October 1st and 2nd at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in Ankeny. Patsy Steffen and her staff have graciously volunteered to host us again. As a result of your feedback, we have chosen to spend more time working on Iowa Core topics as part of our two-day meeting, as it is a major initiative in our state that directly has a direct impact our programs. For this meeting, however, we will be looking at – in workshop fashion – formative assessment and 21st Century Skills as they relate to teacher training. These sessions will work from the assumption that all participants have the baseline knowledge and understanding of what Iowa Core entails with regards to these specific topics. As such we will move forward, looking at the implications of both as they relate to teacher training. Come ready to work!

In the meantime, if there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to ask!

Sincerely,

Tracy Schuster-Matlock, President