

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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MACTE Minute, Board of Teaching Meeting, March 14, 2014

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to the Board of Teaching on behalf of the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE).

MACTE urges you to move ahead in hiring a full-time, permanent executive director as soon as possible. Minnesota needs to develop new processes for preparation and accountability, and this is hampered by the lack of a consistent and long-term leader to help make the Board's work operational. The staff and interim directors have been excellent, but a director is needed to implement and navigate the new initiatives before us. While we understand that the board faces budget challenges, we also recognize that new director is needed to help us find new ways of working together.

Here are key issues that the director must address:

- We hope the new director will look at the proposed options for license programs and work with your staff and our campuses to streamline submission and approval. The current processes, while thorough, are confusing for many campuses and have resulted in multiple questions and needed clarifications. A new director should review what information campuses need before they submit programs, and should establish the most effective processes to get new programs approved. As Minnesota schools articulate new demands for teacher characteristics and qualifications, new efficiencies for program approval are needed.
- For program re-approval, the director should create a process to determine how licensing program data will be used. While we understand how our compliance data will be treated, we do not understand how our improvement data will be treated. Licensing test scores, edTPA scores, and graduate follow up survey results, are all going to be submitted regularly. But it is unclear to us how changes in these data will be treated as part of a program's re-approval process.
- The new director will need to reestablish a State partnership agreement with the national accreditation agency. With the merger of TEAC and NCATE into CAEP, the articulation of new standards need to be examined in light of the Board's unit approval processes, and a new partnership understanding should be created.
- The legislature is in session, and we hear draft proposals for changing teaching requirements debated in the major education committees. The new director is needed to work with legislators to present the vision of the board, explain the strengths of our current preparation system, and guide them to workable legislation for the real education problems they hope to address.

This is a critical time for the board to seek appropriate funding for your work. The member campuses of MACTE are willing to support you however we can.

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