

## MACTE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER #10

### MACTE FALL CONFERENCE

The MACTE Fall Conference will be held at Saginaw Valley State University on Friday, **October 6, 2006**, immediately following the DARTEP meeting. Sharon Robinson, President of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, will be the keynote speaker.

All persons affiliated with MACTE institution preparation programs are urged to attend. There is no cost. For additional information, contact David Hamilton at Spring Arbor University ([hamilton@arbor.edu](mailto:hamilton@arbor.edu))

### NATIONAL LEVEL

News from the U.S. Department of Education is posted on the MACTE web site ([www.emich.edu/coe/macte](http://www.emich.edu/coe/macte)) under "News-U.S. Department of Education."

The big news on the national scene in recent days has been the release of the controversial report by Arthur Levine, the former president of Teachers College, Columbia University, on "Educating School Teachers." The complete report may be read at [http://www.edschools.org/teacher\\_report.htm](http://www.edschools.org/teacher_report.htm). The Michigan Deans Council (the deans of the public universities) has prepared a list of "talking points" concerning this report. For a copy of the "talking points," please contact Dr. Karen Adams at Central Michigan University ([adams1ki@cmich.edu](mailto:adams1ki@cmich.edu))

### STATE LEVEL

A comprehensive report of recent state-level activities, including legislation, State Department of Education actions, etc., distributed by Ms. Sue Wittick to DARTEP members, is attached to the same email that delivers this document. You'll find a great wealth of information there about a lot of preparation-related topics.

### PREPARATION NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

#### CHARLESTON GAZETTE "Teacher Ed Programs Get Approval from State"

Most of West Virginia's teacher education programs are in the clear, and the rest should be soon, state school board members decided. The state department of education fully approved a group of six teacher prep programs for the next five years. Last month, each had been called into question, along with four others, because officials at the respective schools had not provided appropriate paperwork to the state in time for approval. That prompted the school board's leader to suggest not renewing the programs at all. Now, however, no one will be stripped of certification. Typically, the colleges refile for certification every five years, but

because of changes to the state's policies, the department gave schools an extra two years to comply. Colleges are expected to submit information that proves their programs align with policy 5100, which outlines how programs that prepare teachers and administrators are run.

#### ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION "Ga. Program Turns Military Men, Women into Teachers"

Hundreds of Georgia servicemen and women have gone from the armed services to the classroom through a U.S. Department of Defense program called Troops to Teachers. The program provides up to \$5,000 to pay for classes to certify the troops to teach or up to \$10,000 in bonuses to those former troops who choose to work at high-poverty schools. The program started in 1994, but wasn't funded until 2002. Last year 127 people participated in the program statewide. More than 400 teachers in Georgia have gone through the program since 1994.

#### BOSTON GLOBE "Study Says Teacher Training Is Chaotic"

Aspiring teachers emerge from college woefully unprepared for their jobs, according to a study that depicts most teacher education programs as deeply flawed. The review comes from Arthur Levine, former president of Teachers College at Columbia University. Levine's report comes as public schools are under federal orders to have a qualified teacher for every class. The coursework in teacher education programs is in disarray nationwide, the report says. Unlike other professions such as law and medicine, there is no common length of study or set of required skills. Then there are a host of other problems: low admissions standards, disengaged college faculty, insufficient classroom practice and poor oversight. The study is the second in a series known as the Education Schools Project. Last year, Levine reported that principals and superintendents also have inadequate training.

#### QUAD-CITY TIMES "Program Would Forgive Teachers' Student Loans"

New teachers in Iowa will get \$10 million worth of student loans forgiven under a program announced by Governor Tom Vilsack. The program is aimed at graduates of Iowa colleges and universities who agree to teach in high-need specialties such as math, science and special education. The maximum forgiveness would be \$9,000 over five years of teaching. The program is paid for by Iowa Student Loan, a nonprofit company. It would apply to teachers who have outstanding loans with the company or have consolidated loans with the company. An Iowa Student Loan spokesman said the program will work in conjunction with an existing state program and an existing federal program to remedy teacher shortages in certain specialties. Officials in the governor's office estimate that teachers could get up to \$30,500 in benefits from the new program and the two existing ones.

CALIFORNIA governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed legislation meant to increase the number of highly qualified teachers in the state's schools. One of the bills enables principals in low-performing schools to reject the transfer of a teacher into their schools.

ILLINOIS has created a new program requiring one year of mentoring for all new principals. The legislation also creates a voluntary master-principal program and a teacher leadership endorsement.

NORTH CAROLINA has created a pilot program to provide a \$15,000 salary supplement for newly hired middle or high school mathematics or science teachers. The program will be targeted at three low-performing districts, and funds have currently been allocated for up to 10 teachers.

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