

From: NAICU Presidents Network [mailto:presnet@naicu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 2:11 PM
To: NAICU Presidents Network
Subject: [presnet] Education Reform Meets Private Colleges via Teacher Preparation

Dear Colleague:

Congress and the administration are considering vast changes to teacher training programs at colleges and universities. I am writing to identify NAICU members for whom teacher preparation programs are important. If this is the case at your college or university, I would like to learn a bit more about your institution's efforts.

Teacher education programs at colleges and universities are considered inadequate by many education reformers, both inside and outside of government. As the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (formerly known as No Child Left Behind) is being rewritten, lawmakers from both parties and the Education Department are upping their rhetoric to "get tough" on colleges. Some [ideas](#) of concern are making their way into congressional drafts of ESEA, and are [being proposed](#) in separate regulatory processes by the administration.

To properly represent you on this important matter, we need to know more from our membership. (Please note that we work closely with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Preparation, to which many of your education deans belong.)

What You Need to Know:

- ✓ An influential, bi-partisan group of Senators succeeded in amending the committee education bill to allow states to fund institutes for teacher training that could be free-standing and whose credentials must be given equal status to colleges' masters degrees, but require no accreditation or outside validation of effectiveness. (See [background article](#) and the [amendment language](#).)
- ✓ Education Secretary Duncan has announced a regulatory effort to get states to evaluate all teacher education programs, with an eye toward shutting down the lowest performing schools. (See [background article](#).)

What We Need to Know: We have posted a brief online survey to help us identify how the proposed changes would affect your institution, the overall importance of this issue to NAICU members, and to identify those of you who wish to receive special alerts on this matter as federal action progresses. The survey will also allow you to bring campus officials of your choosing into this conversation. If teacher education is not important to your campus, or if you do not offer a teacher education program, there is an opt-out feature after the first question. NAICU will keep survey responses from individual institutions confidential. (Please [click here](#) to complete this survey as soon as possible, but no later than **November 28.**)

What's Ahead:

Many policymakers are enamored of boutique teacher training programs such as Teach for America, and want to empower them to do more. Others believe teacher preparation programs should be evaluated based on the performance of the K-12 students taught by your graduates on state-based standardized assessments, with an eye toward closing those teacher education programs deemed underperforming. Congress and the administration often do not see the hard work many colleges are

doing to continually improve teacher preparation programs, and to prepare our students for the changing and challenging demands of the nation's K-12 students.

Such a foregone conclusion can give policymakers little incentive to truly learn the current state of teacher education programs or to help programs that need improving. A cavalier assault on programs could harm many private colleges, while sharply reducing the overall quality of our nation's classroom teachers.

Thank you for taking time to help us in this important work.

Sincerely,

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