Colleagues,

This summer NAICU anticipates the release of federal regulations on teacher preparation programs that could harm teacher education reform efforts underway nationwide. In preparation, the association is part of a coalition that includes public colleges and the professional association representing teacher preparation programs, working to dispel some of the underlying myths that are fueling the likely federal intervention.

Spearheaded by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), the Higher Education Task Force on Teacher Preparation brings together the deans of education and the presidential associations representing public and private colleges to advocate for appropriate reforms and accountability. The initial set of materials produced by the task force is now available for member use.

Growing out of the recently-completed negotiated rulemaking sessions, the group identified these four biggest areas of concern:

- Using the unproven "value-added method" to assess teacher preparation programs based on student outcomes on standardized test.
- Requiring federally-mandated state criteria for teacher program assessment
- Rating teacher preparation programs based on the federally-mandated state criteria
- The precedent setting-move of linking student aid eligibility to program quality, as the proposal to link Title II state program accountability with TEACH Grants would do.

The three task force documents outline the problems with this winter's negotiated rulemaking sessions; offer principles the task force believes should be used in evaluating teacher prep programs; and address outdated myths about teacher prep programs.

If you have upcoming congressional meetings planned, please use these documents to guide your discussions. If you have good examples of reforms underway at your teacher preparation programs that we could use in our policy conversations, please send them to Stephanie Giesecke, stephanie@naicu.edu.

We will send you an alert when the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) is issued by the Department this summer.

David

David L. Warren
President, NAICU