



NAAC NEWSLETTER

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The voice for alternative certification in education

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President's Column

Its election time! Recently, the NAAC board made significant changes to the election process. Most importantly, the election for executive officers will take place by mail before the annual conference and results will be announced during the conference.

NAAC is the only membership association advocating for nontraditional routes to teacher certification. Members of the board play a national role in the arena of alternate routes to certification by setting policy for the organization and carrying out its goals and priorities. At this time, the positions of president-elect and secretary are up for election. Only NAAC members may submit nominations, run for office, and vote in the annual board elections.

The president-elect will serve for a two-year term beginning at the January 2010 conference, followed by a two-year term as president, and a two-year term as past president. The secretary will serve a two-year term and may be re-elected for no more than one additional consecutive term. Both are members of the board's executive committee.

Nominations must be submitted by mail, fax or email no later than December 1, 2009 on the official election nomination form. Self-nominations are permitted. Ballots will be mailed to all members no later than December 18, 2009. The nomination form is available at: www.alternativecertification.org.

In addition, *during the conference* members of NAAC's Region 2, 4, and 5 will elect representatives to the



Dr. Cyndy Stephens
NAAC President

board. Regional representatives also serve a two-year term, beginning at the conference during which they were elected (see page 5 for a list of states by region).

I urge you to make an impact on the future of our association by participating in the annual election process.

NAAC Releases Paper on STEMing the Teacher Shortage Tide

The United States continues to face a critical shortage of **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)** candidates to pursue careers in these fields as well as candidates with these backgrounds to teach in our nation's P-12 schools. NAAC recently released a paper that calls on corporate leaders – from corporations that employ significant numbers of STEM professionals – to become partners in the effort to recruit, prepare and retain high quality STEM teachers. **STEMing the Teacher Shortage Tide** provides the framework for NAAC's initiative to involve corporate leaders in a national effort to support innovative pathways to teaching in STEM fields.

Research studies validate the importance of having strong, well-prepared, well-educated teachers in STEM subjects. But STEM teachers are in critically short supply. A 2007 study by the Business-Higher Education Forum projects that our country will need more than 280,000 new teachers in math and science by 2015. We must not overlook the pool of potential teachers with degrees in STEM fields who are currently employed in industry and are interested in encore careers in teaching. With appropriate, innovative programs to help these professionals transition into teaching, we can redirect their expertise and passion into the classrooms that need them. Many alternative certification programs are already doing just that, and would welcome the support of business in these efforts.

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STEMing the Teacher Shortage Tide

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Corporations such as IBM, which has been a national leader in promoting support for STEM professionals as they transition into teaching careers, realize the long-term benefit of partnering with the education community. By helping support professionals with expertise in STEM fields to become teachers, corporations are encouraging excellence in science and math teaching, to better prepare and motivate American students to pursue higher education in STEM fields, thus providing a well-prepared workforce for tomorrow.

STEMing the Teacher Shortage Tide provides the rationale for developing partnerships between three entities: corporations, university and other teacher preparation providers, and school districts. Further, it offers action steps to stem the teacher shortage tide through effective partnerships. You can read the full report on NAAC's website: www.alternativecertification.org. You can learn more and join the conversation about effective partnerships by participating in the corporate strand at the upcoming NAAC annual conference. Corporate strand sessions will take place on Thursday, January 28, 2010 in conjunction with the conference in Summerlin, Nevada.

California Alternative Certification Programs Launch California Teacher Corps

The California Teacher Corps, a statewide organization with the goal of preparing 100,000 highly qualified teachers to be placed in California public schools by 2020, launched this summer. The California Teacher Corps represents more than 70 alternative certification programs. It was formerly a loosely organized coalition known as the California Association for Alternative Certification, and is a state affiliate of the National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC).

The California Teacher Corps will provide a unified voice for alternative certification programs throughout the state. It will help establish new alternative certification programs in areas of the state that currently do not have such programs, providing them with technical assistance as they grow, and strengthen existing programs as they continue to serve as pipelines for preparing highly-qualified teachers. Also, the organization will serve as a resource on research about the effectiveness of teacher preparation in California, according to Catherine Kearney, president of the organization.

For more information, visit the California Teacher Corps at www.cateachercorps.org.

20th Annual Conference Offers New Features

Professional Development Workshops; Intern Strand

The National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC) 20th Annual Conference will offer new programmatic features, along with an outstanding line-up of keynote speakers. Most notable is the addition of intensive professional development workshops, comprising an optional extra day at the beginning of the program. Registrants can opt to attend the four-day conference, which includes the January 26 professional development workshops, or attend the three-day conference, which will be similar in format to previous NAAC meetings with general sessions featuring nationally recognized speakers and dozens of concurrent break-out sessions.

The conference theme is: ***Dynamics in 21st Century School Staffing: Transforming Challenging Opportunities into Extraordinary Success***. Keynote speakers include **Jo Anderson** from the United States Department of Education, **John Antonetti** from Colleagues on Call, **Tom Bloch** from University Academy, **Pedro Noguera** from New York University, and **Robby Wells** from Savannah State University.

Professional Development Day

The professional development workshops are three or six-hour sessions with expert presenters. They include:

- **Coaching Essentials for Leaders:** Linda Miller, The Ken Blanchard Companies
- **Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching:** Karyn Wright, Clark County School District
- **Constructing the Blue Prints for Nontraditional Teacher Preparation Programs:** Judie Hayes, Wichita State University; Nell Ingram, Dallas ISD; Catherine Kearney; Project IMPACT
- **Integrating 21st Century Technology into Classroom Instruction:** David McCarthy, University of Minnesota, Duluth
- **Utilizing Online Technology to Enhance, Assess and Improve Teacher Performance:** Chuck Maher, LiveText
- **FOCUS: Achieving Your Highest Priorities:** Sherri Sallinger, Sallinger's TLC

Intern Strand

Another unique feature of the 2010 conference will be a strand specifically for interns. The NAAC Board encourages each alternate route program to select at least one intern to attend the meeting this year. This unique professional development experience will allow interns to benefit from plenary sessions with nationally recognized speakers as well as special break-out sessions designed to meet their needs as beginning teachers.

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20th Annual Conference

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Intern sessions include:

- John Antonetti on instructional strategies
- Stacy Morgan on classroom management
- Clarence Glover on cultural diversity

Interns will have opportunities to meet with NAAC leaders at the beginning of the conference and to participate in a culminating session with a facilitator to debrief the conference, reflect on new learnings, learn strategies for processing new professional development for impact on their practice, develop a network of colleagues for future collaboration.

Finally, the 2010 conference will include a corporate strand with a focus on building partnerships between the business and education sectors to address critical national shortages of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) teachers. The corporate strand will take place on Thursday, January 28.

The full conference is Tuesday, January 26 – Friday, January 29, 2010 at the beautiful Red Rock Resort in Summerlin, Nevada. The hotel is just 14 miles from the Las Vegas airport. For more information on the conference program, registration, and hotel reservations go to www.alternativecertification.org.



Luncheon and General Session

*Wednesday, January 27th 12:15 pm - 1:45 pm
Break-out Session 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm*

Pedro Noguera is an urban sociologist whose scholarship and research focus on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment. He is professor in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University. He is also the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS).



Luncheon and General Session

Thursday, January 28th 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Jo Anderson, Jr. is Senior Advisor to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Among other duties, Mr. Anderson assists the Secretary in outreach to educators and professional organizations nationally. Before joining the Department of Education, he was Executive Director of the Illinois Education Association. Previously, he founded the Center for Educational Improvement to facilitate reform and restructuring in the Illinois Public School system. Mr. Anderson is an instrumental voice in the new directions and priorities for public education in America.

2010 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Conference Kick-Off & Opening General Session

*Tuesday, January 26th 6:00 pm - 6:15 pm
Wednesday, January 27th 8:30 am - 9:45 am*

Robert "Robby" Wells is the groundbreaking head football coach at Savannah State University. Coach Wells is an expert on adult learning, team building, and motivating learners under difficult circumstances. He came to Savannah State as the Historically Black University's first white head coach in its 93 year history, and helped the team realize remarkable success. Wells received his master's degree in adult education in 2000 from the University of South Carolina.

Quality Indicators Update

Culminating two years of intensive work, the National Task Force on Quality Indicators for Nontraditional Teacher Preparation Programs has developed a draft version of quality indicators that will be used by alternate route programs for self-assessment and improvement, providing a guide to the elements of high quality programs that demonstrate success through measurable outcomes. The project, which is spearheaded by the National Association for Alternative Certification, has moved into the next phase, which involves engaging focus groups in intensive review and item testing, followed by revision of the instrument.

The quality indicators will be made available for public review in 2010. At that stage, several alternate route certification programs will be selected to pilot test the instrument. After rigorous pilot testing, the quality indicators will be revised and peer reviewed, then finalized for public dissemination. The quality indicators will be supported by rubrics that allow programs to review their outcomes and develop plans for continuous improvement.

NAAC members will have the opportunity to participate in sessions and discussions on the Quality Indicators at the annual conference, January 26-29, 2010 in Summerlin, Nevada.

Call for Manuscripts

Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification

The Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification invites members and non-members of NAAC to submit manuscripts on issues related to alternative certification. Research manuscripts should focus on quantitative and/or qualitative research that has implications and applicability for practitioners and/or policy makers involved with alternative certification. Featured article manuscripts should focus on issues related to policy, positions, and methodology. There is no set date for manuscripts submitted to be considered for publication in the *Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification*.

For more information, go to www.alternativecertification.org/journal.asp.

2010 Keynote Speakers confirmed continued...



General Session with John Antonetti

Thursday, January 28th 8:45 am - 9:45 am

Break-out Session 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Break-out Session 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

John Antonetti is the consummate "teacher's teacher." He is an advocate of experiential education and has been a lead developer and trainer in the process of classroom walk-throughs, a system for improving curriculum and instruction. John Antonetti trains in state and local districts across the country and has worked with several districts that won the nationally recognized Broad Prize for Urban Education. He is a co-founder of Colleagues on Call and the author of *Writing as a Measure and Model of Thinking*.



Closing General Session with Tom Bloch

Friday, January 29th 8:30 am - 9:30 am

Tom Bloch, former CEO of H&R Block, drew national media attention when he left his high visibility corporate career to become an inner city teacher. He appeared to tell his story on Oprah, Today and other national television broadcasts and has been featured in many publications, including *The New York Times* and *People*. His second career in education began in 1995 as a middle school math teacher at an inner city parochial school. Five years later, he co-founded the University Academy, a public charter school in Kansas City. Tom Bloch continues to teach 7th and 8th grade math at the urban college prep school he helped design and launch. He is also President of the school's board. Bloch's book, *Stand for the Best*, is a memoir about his journey from CEO to inner city teacher and school founder.

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**Please visit the NAAC website at
www.alternativecertification.org
to find an electronic version of
this newsletter and more.**

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Book Review

Stand for the Best

By Thomas M. Bloch, 2008

Published by Jossey-Bass

When Tom Bloch left his position as CEO at H & R Block to become an inner city math teacher, he made national headlines. Several years later, he co-founded a successful charter school, University Academy, where he still teaches part-time. *Stand for the Best* chronicles his unique venture from CEO to educator and educational reformer.

Stand for the Best is the story of how the decision to step down from the helm of H & R Block, a company his father had founded, and pursue what he saw as “a higher calling” changed his life and the lives of the children he taught. Bloch’s transition from the boardroom to the classroom was full of doubts and frustrations as well as joys and successes. He does not claim to have all the answers, but he explores many topics that will resonate with other career switchers and the teacher-educators who prepare them. The book includes lessons learned from Bloch’s experience, winning strategies from teachers he has known, and valuable approaches for educating students no matter what their circumstances.

When Tom Bloch began teaching in 1995, there was no alternate route program available to him in Kansas City. He earned his certification through an independent study program developed for him by Rockhurst University, while teaching part-time at a parochial school across the street. Based on his personal experience, he is now an ardent supporter of alternate routes to teaching. Tom Bloch will provide the closing keynote address at the annual conference of the National Association for Alternative Certification. Conference participants can expect to be inspired and challenged by his unique experiences.

NAAC Membership Application

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Membership Category:

- Individual Membership -- \$50
- Intern/Student -- \$15

Submit form and check or purchase order to:

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