

Teachers Certified through the Governors State University Alternative Certification Partnership Share their Experiences

National Association for Alternative Certification
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Introducing Vickie and Pia

Career changers making a difference
in our schools!

- Backgrounds
- Current roles
- Decision to go into teaching



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*TEACHING IS
INTELLECTUALLY
COMPLEX, DIFFICULT
AND DEMANDING WORK,
AT LEAST AS
COMPLICATED AS
NEUROSURGERY*



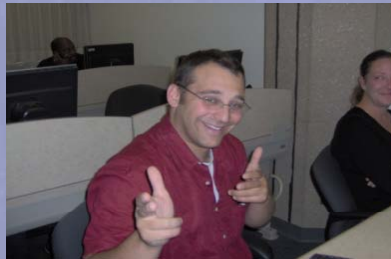
Jonathan D. Saphier, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Research for Better Teaching



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Alt Cert +++++

“Novice teachers with prior work experience in a field other than teaching are more likely to report a good teaching experience, intend to continue teaching, and plan to remain in the same school than novices entering with no other work experience.”



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GSU Program Background



- GSU in South Suburban region of Chicago
- Soon will begin 12th cohort – 16 month elementary program
- Partnership with approximately 15 districts
- 2006 – One of six national finalists for the Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education (AASCU)
- Candidates 60% minority, 30% male
- 2002 TTT grantee
- 2008 (ongoing) state induction/mentoring grant
- 2010 TQP grantee - \$7.1 million
 - add residency model and secondary science and math

A sampling of demographics...

Districts 2009-10	% Low Income	% Mobility	% White	% Black	% Hispanic
Posen Robbins	92.8	29.5	5.6	44.6	48.5
Matteson	56.2	25.9	5.5	88.5	3.8
Ford Heights	99.5	25.1	0.0	98.6	1.4
Chicago Heights Elementary	91.8	34.6	4.3	40.8	44.6
Chicago Heights Secondary	75.6	18.7	15.5	55.8	22.7
Dolton	88.5	24	0.4	97.1	1.02



Challenges – Urban Setting

- Bureaucracy
- Funding/scarcity issues
- Cultural/Class disconnect between students and teachers
Adapted from Lois Weiner – Urban Teaching
- High mobility rates of students
- Necessity of learning reform models in addition to standard curriculum
- High pressure on schools on the “lists”



Additional Challenges - Alternatively Certified Teachers

- Internship - very rigorous, but less preparation before placement
- Internship - limited field experience before placement
- Residency – optimizing co-teaching
- Range of experience working with diverse student populations
- Ranges in level of support
- Challenges in acclimating to school culture
- Pressure of still being students
- Disconnect from expectations in other careers or fields of study



Perspectives on Preparation

Developmental coursework

Theory to practice

Lesson planning (notes for next time)

Reflective practitioners

Portfolio development

LiveText – technology portfolio



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Beyond Classroom Instruction

- Mentoring and Instructional Enhancement Contracts
- Performance Based Assessment
- Administrator Learning Communities
- Turnaround Leadership Initiative



“Closing the Achievement Gaps”

Dr. Joseph Murphy, Vanderbilt University

Academic and Environmental Factors Need to be Addressed in Tandem

- Instructional program - “Academic Press”
- School Culture – Safe and supportive environment for teachers and students

“Ultimately, programs that rely entirely on increasing academic standards without parallel attention to social-emotional factors associated with achievement motivation and performance will be less likely to improve student achievement outcomes.” (Becker and Luther, 2002)



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**THANK
YOU**

for this opportunity to share our thoughts and experiences...

Questions and Comments.....



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Visit our Website

www.govst.edu/altcert/

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