

Update #2
April 2003

UPDATE ON TEACHER EDUCATION

Issues

Because of the high degree of activity in the area of teacher preparation, **ICCB staff will be issuing periodic updates on current projects and initiatives that impact the community college system.**

The following information is provided for your review.

Please direct questions or comments to Rebecca Miller at (217) 558-4682 or rmiller@iccb.state.il.us

Paraprofessional (Teacher Aide/Teacher Assistant) Preparation

The final report of the Paraprofessional Task Force is near completion and will be released to the community college system as soon as possible. Colleges interested in offering the AAS Paraprofessional degree or certificate are encouraged to submit their applications for action at ICCB's May 2003 meeting.

ICCB and ISBE have extended their paraprofessional partnership to include development of test preparation training for the ETS "Parapro" and ACT Work Keys assessments. The overall objective of the project is to collaboratively create test preparation modules that can be shared with interested education entities throughout the state to provide consistent, quality preparation to which all paraprofessionals have access. Both on-site and on-line formats will be available. It is anticipated that the project will begin in late April 2003.

Paraprofessional Assessment Tests

At its March board meeting, ISBE approved cut scores for the ParaPro and Work Keys assessments. Access the following link for further details: <http://www.isbe.net/nclb/pdfs/paraprofqual.pdf>



Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) Degree

The Task Force is in the process of expanding its preliminary recommendations by convening faculty/administrator work groups to examine the high needs areas of secondary math and secondary science. Additional work groups will explore the general education component, core professional coursework, and policies and procedures for review, accountability, and transfer. Each curricular group will be charged with identifying standards, outcomes, assessments and portfolio artifacts to incorporate within their recommendations. In addition, work groups will include representatives from the IAI education panels as well as the Paraprofessional Task Force to ensure maximum coordination and input from members of other education initiatives. It is anticipated that work groups will be convened in late April or early May. Efforts to fully define the model will continue throughout the coming months.

UIUC Institute "Community College/University Partnerships: Implementation Strategies for the Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) Degree"

The College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is presenting a three-day institute focusing on the AAT. This will be an opportunity for community college and university faculty and administrators to discuss preliminary recommendations for the degree model and identify potential implementation issues. The institute will be held from May 29 to 31, 2003.

For more information, access the following link and scroll down until the conference title is listed:
<http://www.continuinged.uiuc.edu/conferences/>.



ISBE Program Reviewers Needed

The professional education units of Illinois institutions are currently reviewed by the State Board of Education on a five-year cycle. Content-area experts review the institutions' programs within the context of the Illinois content-area standards one year prior to the onsite visit. ISBE is searching for qualified individuals who are willing to participate in this process.

Interested individuals would receive training to review program reports from institutions scheduled for a periodic review of their professional education unit in the spring 2004 and fall 2004. ISBE is particularly looking for faculty in the areas of: Computer Education, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Reading, Science (especially Physical Science), School Nursing, Social Work, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

State Board staff are conducting a one-day training session **April 29, 10 AM - 3 PM**, in the Springfield office. For those in the Chicago area, a one-day session will be held on **April 30** at UIC. Nominations are currently being taken. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible. Send name, title and contact information to Liz Brooks (ebrooks@isbe.net <<mailto:ebrooks@isbe.net>>) or Phylliss Jones (phjones@isbe.net <<mailto:phjones@isbe.net>>).



Illinois Early Childhood Career Lattice Project

The Career Lattice initiative, which began in December, 2002, continues to progress in its efforts to develop a comprehensive career lattice and information system for early childhood students and practitioners. The lattice and career information system will be designed as part of a broader integrated professional development system that will pave the way for advances in individual professional achievement and compensation for early childhood practitioners. The work of the project committee, which includes representatives from state agencies, early childhood organizations, higher education, and education and care providers, continues to focus on the following:

- clearly defining roles, qualifications and competencies across the early childhood field;
- identification and creation of smooth pathways to career preparation and professional movement along the career lattice;
- stabilization of the early childhood workforce; and
- improved developmental outcomes for children.

The group and its subcommittees meet monthly. It is anticipated that by June 2003, committee work will be completed and initial recommendations developed.

**** HOLD THE DATE: A statewide meeting for community college early childhood faculty and administrators will be held on May 2, 2003, at Lincoln Land Community College. Preliminary recommendations will be shared and discussed. Teams of faculty and administrators from each institution are encouraged to attend. ****



Natural Allies

In the spring of 2002, ICCB received a grant, on behalf of the State of Illinois, for a project called "Natural Allies." The initiative is sponsored by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and focuses on enhancing the preparation of community college students to work with infants, toddlers and young children (0-5) of diverse abilities and their families in inclusive community settings. The Illinois team is addressing three primary goals: enhancing community college early childhood curriculum in the area of exceptionalities, providing additional special needs professional development opportunities on community college campuses, and assisting with the development of an early childhood career lattice. A 15-member travel team will attend a four-day institute in North Carolina in July 2003 to begin creating a statewide plan for achieving and implementing these goals.



Should There Be A National Teacher Test And/Or Evaluation System?

(taken from FOCUS ON TEACHING QUALITY: NCTAF NewsPoints – A Service of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, Vol. 2, No. 2 February/March 2003)

In late February, a pair of editorials appeared on USA Today's Op-Ed page, penned by (respectively) USA Today's editorial staff and David Imig, president of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). Both editorials expressed the importance of holding all teacher candidates to high standards to help ensure quality, and both endorsed AACTE's initiative to introduce a national teacher evaluation system that would gauge the skills and readiness of teacher candidates. USA Today's editorial lauds the idea of a common evaluation system as an accountability measure that could "track teachers to their alma maters so school systems could determine which colleges are succeeding and failing at teacher training. That would provide the accountability these institutions long have resisted."

Access the articles through the links, below:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2003-02-24-our-view_x.htm (USA Today, View)

http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2003-02-24-oppose_x.htm (David Imig, AACTE)