

The Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

March 3, 2011

Mr. Brian Kelly, Editor
U.S. News & World Report
1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Mr. Kelly:

The deans of education in the State of Texas received your announcement of a project to review and rate education schools in cooperation with the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ). We appreciate the efforts of *U.S. News & World Report* to make information about educational opportunities and program quality available to the American public, and we share the goal that NCTQ espouses in its tag line: "to ensure that every child has an effective teacher."

However, the undersigned members of the Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (TACTE) are declining to participate in the project that you are undertaking.

It is our current understanding that the methodology NCTQ plans to use is substantially the same as the one employed in their review of Texas education schools last year. We found it wanting then, and our assessment of its features has not changed.

- Our criticisms of the NCTQ methodologies mirror those raised in the memorandum sent to you by the education deans, presidents, and directors from AAU universities dated February 3, 2011.
- NCTQ does not plan to include teacher preparation programs outside colleges and universities in its project. Such programs in Texas, sponsored by non-profit organizations like education service centers and public school districts, as well as for-profit corporations, now account for more than half of the newly certified teachers in Texas. This fact limits whatever usefulness the project would have for improving the quality of new teachers in Texas.

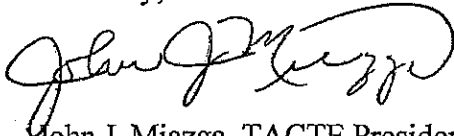
Beyond our concerns about the limitations of the methodology, we have major resource restrictions to which we must attend. This is a key factor, because your letter indicates that after providing the initial information about our institution and programs, we will receive additional requests for information during the course of the project.

- Public institutions in Texas are facing state budget reductions estimated to fall between 10 and 20 percent beginning September 1, 2011.

- We must invest our research and development efforts in ways that have promise for improving our programs. Because the NCTQ project uses an old “input” analysis rather than performance-based “outcome” analysis, it cannot provide us with the kind of information that would be useful for program improvement.
- We will continue to invest our resources in internal and external program reviews when they offer evidence-based assessments of our graduates’ performance.
 - For example, the Texas Education Agency has launched its *Project on Educator Effectiveness and Quality* to be conducted by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas-Austin.
 - Like the Gates-funded project, *Measures of Effective Teaching*, this Texas review is performance-oriented, and it will use multiple sources of information about teaching behavior and effectiveness.
 - We have been invited to participate in the study’s design, and believe it will be useful in identifying not only the strengths of our current programs but also areas for improvement.

If the NCTQ project proceeds and *U.S. News & World Report* publishes information about our teacher preparation programs, we request that the report explicitly state that our institutions declined to participate in the project.

Sincerely,



John J. Miazga, TACTE President
3305 Shady Hill
San Angelo, TX 76904

The University of Texas has sent a letter previously

The following pages contain the names of Texas institutions, the deans of colleges/schools/departments of Education, their presidents, provosts, and other administrators that support and agree with this statement.

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. John Miazga, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Joseph D. Rallo, President
Dr. Anthony P. Blose, Provost and Vice President

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Dr. Robert Wimpelberg, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Renu Khator, President
Dr. John Antel, Provost

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Dana Kennamer Hood, Director, Teacher Education
Lesa Breeding, Dean, College of Education and Human Services
Phil Schubert, President
Jeanine Varner, Provost

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, President
Dr. Karan L. Watson, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
Dr. Douglas J. Palmer, Dean, College of Education and Human Development

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Dr. Marlene Zipperlen, Dean College of Education
Dr. Randy O'Rear, President
Dr. Steve Oldham, Provost/Chief Academic Officer

University of Houston-Victoria

Dr. Lawrence F. Rossow, Dean, School of Education & Human Development
Dr. Suzanne V. LaBrecque, Provost
Dr. Don N. Smith, Interim President

Tarleton State University

Dr. Jill Burk, Dean of the College of Education
Dr. F. Dominic Dottavio, President
Dr. Karen Murray, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Hardin-Simmons University

Dr. Pamela Williford, Dean, Irvin School of Education
Dr. Lanny Hall, President
Dr. Tommy Brisco, Provost

Midwestern State University

Dr. Matthew Capps, Dean West College of Education
Dr. Jesse Rogers, President
Dr. Alisa White Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Texas A&M University - Commerce

Dr. Brent Mangus, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Dan Jones, President
Dr. Larry Lemanski, Provost

Howard Payne University

Dr. Mike Rosato, Dean
Dr. Bill Ellis, President
Dr. Mark Tew, Provost

Texas A&M International University)

Dr. Juan Lira, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Ray Keck, III, President
Dr. Pablo Arenaz, Provost

Concordia University

Dr. James McConnell, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Thomas Cedel, President
Dr. Alan Runge, Provost

University of Texas at San Antonio

Dr. Betty Merchant, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Ricardo Romo, President
Dr. John Frederick, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Schreiner University

Dr. Neva Cramer, Director of Education and Graduate Studies
Dr. Tim Summerlin, President
Dr. Charlie McCormick, Provost

University of Texas at Arlington

Jeanne Gerlach, Dean, College of Education and Health Professions,
James D. Spaniolo, President
Donald Bobbitt, Provost

University of Houston Downtown

Beth Pelz, Dean, College of Public Service
William Flores, President
Michael Dressman, Chief Academic Officer

University of North Texas

Jerry R. Thomas, Ed.D., Dean and Professor, College of Education

V. Lane Rawlins, President

Warren Burggren, Provost

Lubbock Christian University

David Boyer, Ed.D., Associate Dean, School of Education

L. Ken Jones, Ph.D., Chancellor and CEO of Lubbock Christian University

Rod Blackwood, Ph.D., Provost and Chief Academic Officer Susan

Blassingame, Ph.D., Dean, Hancock College of Liberal Arts and Education

Southwestern University

Sherry Adrian, Chair, Education Department

Jake B. Schrum, President

James W. Hunt, Provost and Dean of the Faculty

University of Houston-Clear Lake

Dennis W. Spuck, Dean, School of Education

William A. Staples, President

Carl A. Stockton, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

East Texas Baptist University

Donna Harrell Lubcker, Ed.D., Dean, School of Education

Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver, Ph.D., President

Sherilyn Emberton, Ph.D., Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

University of Texas at Tyler

William Geiger, Dean, College of Education

Rodney Mabry, Ph. D., President

Texas Woman's University

L. Nan Restine, Dean of the College of Professional Education

Dr. Robert Neely, Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs

McMurry University

Perry Kay Haley-Brown, Dean, College of Education

John Russell, Ph.D., President

Lamar University

Dr. Hollis Lowery-Moore, Dean College of Education and Human
Development

Dr. James Simmons, President Lamar University

Huston-Tillotson University

Dr. Eric Budd, Chair of Educator Preparation Program
Dr. Larry L. Earwin, President

St. Edward's University

Grant W. Simpson, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, School of Education
Sr. Donna Jurick, Executive Vice President and Provost

St. Mary's University

Dr. Dan Higgins, Chair, Teacher Education Department,
Andre Hampton, J.D., Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

The University of Texas at Brownsville

Miguel Angel Escotet, Dean, College of Education,
Dr. Allan F.S. Artibise, Provost

Wayland Baptist University

Dr. Jim Todd, Dean, School of Education
Bobby Hall, Provost, Wayland Baptist University

Baylor University

Jon M. Engelhardt, Dean, School of Education,
Elizabeth Davis, Provost and Executive Vice President

Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi

Dr. Art Hernandez, Dean of the College of Education
Dr. Ted Duffy, Provost

University of the Incarnate Word

Dr. Denise Staudt, Dean of the Dreeben School of Education
Dr. Denise Doyle, Provost

Prairie View A&M University

Dr. Lucian Yates, III, Dean, College of Education

Wiley College

Dr. Robert Watkins, Dean

University of Dallas

Jerry Irons, Ph.D., Chairman, Department of Education
Charles Eaker, Ph.D., Dean, Constantin College

Sul Ross University - Rio Grande College

Dorman Moore, Ph.D., Director and Chair, Department of Education

University of Texas - Pan American

Dr. Hector Ochoa, Dean, College of Education

Texas A&M University - Texarkana

Dr. Glenda Ballard, Dean

Rice University

Meredith Skura, Ph.D., Chair

Lissa Heckelman, Ph.D., Director

Austin College

Barbara Sylvester, Austin Teacher Program

Texas Tech University

Dr. Peggy Johnson, Vice Dean, College of Education

Texas Lutheran University

Dr. James E. Newberry, Dean, College of Education

Sam Houston State University

Dr. Genevieve Brown, Dean, College of Education

Texas State University-San Marcos

Stan Carpenter, Interim Dean, College of Education

Texas Southern University

Jay Cummings, Dean and Professor, College of Education

Southwestern Assemblies of God University

Donna Townsend, Director of Education Program

Southwestern Adventist University

Marcel Sargeant, Ph.D. Professor and Chair. Hayes Center for Teacher Education, Department of Education and Psychology

The University of Texas at Dallas

George Fair, Ph.D. – Dean, School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Scherry F. Johnson, Ed.D. – Associate Dean and Director of Teacher Development Center

LeTourneau University

Wayne Jacobs, Ph.D., Dean, School of Education

Paul Quinn College

Michael J. Myers II, Special Assistant to the President

Additional Comment:

To: NCTQ/USN&WR:

We are in receipt of your joint request for completion of a survey of undergraduate and graduate education programs in the nation. As an institution, we, like you, are working to ensure that every child has an effective teacher, at least those that we can help prepare. As we noted in a letter to you in January of 2010, we hold ourselves accountable in that effort to our own internal goals and measurement, the expectations of the Texas Education Agency and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Although I am sure you are also sincere in your efforts to improve teacher education, we have not found your criteria and use of data to represent best practices. That situation has not changed. We decline, therefore, to participate in a survey seeking to measure attainment of criteria that we do not find to be appropriate and effective measures of quality teacher preparation.

I would appreciate your sharing this response with Mr. Brian Kelly of USN&WR.

Tim Summerlin, Ph.D.
President
Schreiner University
2100 Memorial Blvd.
Kerrville, TX 78028
Phone: 830-792-7345
Fax: 830-896-3232