

# Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Rhonda Bonnstetter, President  
Rhonda.Bonnstetter@smsu.edu 507-537-6100

Bob Utke, Executive Assistant  
bobjutke@gmail.com 612-759-7878

## MACTE Minute April 10, 2020

To begin with, MACTE would like to sincerely thank both PELSB staff and the Teacher Prep Committee board members who have been working tirelessly on dealing with student teaching, edTPA and field experience issues. We acknowledge that the timeline for all of this has been unforgiving, and we are immensely appreciative for everyone's work. However, even with that acknowledgement, we need answers from PELSB today about issues discussed in this memo, as many of our institutions have semesters ending in 3-4 weeks.

As a means to this end, we support PELSB's request that its licensing officers be declared 'essential', so that license applications can be processed in a timely manner now before the rush at the end of the semester especially in a time of teacher shortages.

### **Recommendations for using edTPA data**

Although institutions will replace the edTPA with assignments that can give candidates the chance to receive feedback on their planning, teaching, and assessment, MACTE also wishes to convey that these replacements will not allow for comparison among institutions because of the lack of validity and reliability in the instruments that individual institutions will develop. And, although there will be some edTPA data available at some institutions because it was submitted before candidates left the field, it will decrease the number of candidates in the total sample and will therefore not be valid for comparison. Since the purpose of the edTPA in Minnesota is to assess program effectiveness, and it is now waived for all teacher candidates, MACTE requests that teacher preparation providers not be held to the 70% thresholds for the academic terms impacted by the pandemic.

### **Employment Data**

While we fully appreciate all of the work that PELSB staff is doing right now, we ask that the 2019-2020 employment data will be made available in EPPAS as soon as possible so that we can get the state-mandated Alumni and Employer surveys sent out. PELSB staff have indicated it was coming, but nothing is available yet. These surveys need to be sent out to teachers prior to the end of the school year.

### **MTLE Tests**

MACTE supports and hopes PELSB will also advocate for HF 4415, Art. 3, Section 1, 3c-d, which allows otherwise qualified student teachers to obtain a one year conditional Tier 3 license if they are not able to take the MTLE tests required for Tier 3 licensure. Since Tier 2 licensure has requirements that districts must post a position for a specified length of time and hire a fully licensed teacher when possible, this is not a good option for this spring's student teachers, and we may lose well qualified candidates in our teaching workforce if they are not able to move forward in applying for teaching positions for fall semester. We are supportive of options that will allow our qualified candidates to move forward into the workforce without penalty for situations outside of their control with the COVID 19 pandemic.