



December 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the MACTE Newsletter for the 2023-2024 academic year! This newsletter is sent once a month during the academic year to update the MACTE community about collaborative work, MACTE events, and information and opportunities relevant to teacher preparation in Minnesota.

MACTE Updates

Register Today - Virtual Winter Meeting on February 9

Our [winter conference](#) will be held over Zoom on February 9, 2024. The day will combine the business meeting and professional development sessions. The theme of social and emotional learning in teacher preparation will continue. The [winter conference agenda is now available](#).

[Register Today](#)

Executive Director Hiring Committee

MEC members Allison Spenader and Michelle Page are co-chairing the hiring committee. The committee is currently reviewing the candidate pool for the hire of MACTE's Executive Director. Once a hiring selection is made, MACTE will share an update with its members.

MACTE Representative on Minnesota's Computer Science Working Group

The Education omnibus bill signed by Governor Walz in May 2023 included the [CS Education Advancement Program \(Section 61, beginning on line 103.28\)](#). This bill seeks to address [Minnesota's standing as last in the nation](#) for computer science education. In accordance with the legislation, the [Minnesota Department of Education \(MDE\) organized the Computer Science Education Working Group](#). This group is charged with developing a state strategic plan for long-term and sustained growth of computer science education in all

kindergarten through grade 12 school districts and charter schools. The plan will be open for public comment in February 2024 and presented to the Minnesota legislature by March 22, 2024.

The plan also has several implications for teacher preparation programs, including the creation of a computer science teaching license, and the possible requirement to integrate grade-level and subject-area appropriate computer science instruction into licensure programs.

Cassie Sharber, Associate Professor of Learning Technologies at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, is the MACTE representative on this workgroup. Cassie is committed to bringing MACTE's concerns, suggestions, and questions to the workgroup. Cassie will be updating the deans and directors at their next meeting. She can also be contacted at scharber@umn.edu.

Experts Sought to Serve on State Taskforce and Advisory Groups for Special Learning Disability Diagnosis in Special Education

In the last legislative session, the state legislature directed MDE to open rulemaking on the inclusion criteria for the SLD diagnosis in special education. A rule-making taskforce and several smaller subgroups have been formed to accomplish this task. There is currently very little representation from higher education in this group.

MACTE members who have expertise in this area and would be willing to serve on this taskforce or in an advisory capacity are needed. The following experts are especially needed:

- Members who hold the SPED license in SLD and/or who work in a SLD assignment
- School psychologists
- Members with expertise in MTSS in math interventions
- Experts in mathematics that have strong knowledge in math-specific learning disabilities
- Anyone with a special interest in learning disability criteria

If you are interested in serving in this effort, please contact Cari Maguire (maguire@umn.edu).

Legislative Updates

Looking ahead to the 2024 Legislative Session

The 2024 legislative session is scheduled to begin February 12, 2024. MACTE has five priorities we are advocating for this session. The full list of priorities and details are available on this [document](#) and on these [slides](#). Priorities include:

1. Increase Minnesota teacher diversity through higher education investments
2. Paid student teaching to address Minnesota teacher shortages
3. Special education teacher preparation and the tiered licensure system
4. Maintain high quality standards for teachers, including teachers of reading
5. Reading and teacher preparation

At the PELSB Meeting on 12/15/23, the Board supported adding language around requiring all teachers of reading issued a Tier 3 license through the 'experience pathway' to demonstrate evidence of meeting the reading standards in administrative rule. You can read the public testimony shared by our legislative liaison Laura about this issue [here](#).

AACTE Updates

New Data on Attrition and Mobility of Teachers in Public and Private K–12 Schools

New data provides attrition and mobility information about teachers in public and private K-12 schools during the 2021–22 school year. The National Center for Education Statistics released a new report, Teacher Attrition and Mobility. Results From the 2021–22 Teacher Follow-up Survey to the National Teacher and Principal Survey (NCES 2023-058). The report provides new information about attrition and mobility of teachers in public and private K–12 schools including... [Continue Reading](#).

AACTE Annual Meeting: February 16-18, 2024 in Aurora/Denver, CO

Ascending New Heights: Propelling the Profession into the Future aligns the [AACTE 2024 Annual Meeting](#) with the association's vision and mission to revolutionize education for all learners by elevating education and educator preparation through research, professional practice, advocacy, and collaboration. Representing the institutions and programs that prepare the greatest number of professional educators in the United States and its territories, and in partnership with international colleague organizations, AACTE is the incubator for bold ideas and new discoveries to drive impactful applications based on evidence-based reasoning. Below are some key dates:

- January 1 - Advance Registration closes
- January 22 - Hotel Registration deadline
- February 1 - Regular Registration closes

PELSB Updates

New Unit Leader Training - January 17

January 17, 2024 from 10am-11:30am, PELSB will host a Unit Leader Training. This training is ideal for those who are new to the unit leader role. Those leaders who need a refresher on key aspects of being a unit leader are also welcome to attend! You may email questions you'd like addressed during the meeting to Tyra Nelson. An agenda will be shared before the day of the meeting.

- [Meeting Link](#)
- Meeting number (access code): 2482 553 2340
- Meeting Password: Y2jZTb9j5VP

Teacher Preparation Committee

The Committee will meet to discuss unit approval, program approval, and discretionary variances. If you have a discretionary variance you would like reviewed, please submit it to Michelle.Sandler@state.mn.us at least one week prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Scheduled Meetings:

- [January 31, 2024 at 3:00 PM](#)

- [March 4, 2024 at 2:30 PM](#)
 - [April 8, 2024 at 2:30 PM](#)
 - [May 3, 2024 at 2:30 PM](#)
 - [June 11, 2024 at 9:30 AM](#)
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MDE Updates

Teacher Residencies and Apprenticeships Planning Pre-Grant Information Session

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Teacher Residencies and Apprenticeships Planning Grant is making \$1.2 million in funding available for up to six grants to institutes of higher education educator preparation programs to support planning for future teacher residency programs and registered teacher apprenticeships. Grants will support higher education and district partnerships' participation in the [National Center for Teacher Residencies \(NCTR\)](#) Residency Foundations course and participation in NCTR's Design Academy through June 2025. Additional grant funds may be used for honorariums or stipends for planning team members, travel and other expenses for team planning meetings, supplies and materials associated with planning, candidate recruitment activities and materials, and administrative costs.

MDE and NCTR will be holding a pre-grant information session for potential grant applicants. This session will provide applicants with a grant overview, an overview of the application process, use of funds, teacher residency programs, and NCTR supports for grantees.

The application window for this grant is expected to open in January or February 2024.

Interested potential grant applicants can [register for the virtual Teacher Residencies and Apprenticeships Planning Pre-Grant information session](#) scheduled for January 19, 2024 at 1:30. Registrants will receive a recording of the event.

To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Chris Ramadan (651-582-8810) at least two weeks prior to the session.

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