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## MACTE April 2025 Newsletter

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# April 2025 Newsletter

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) publishes a newsletter monthly during the academic year. MACTE members with information or opportunities of interest to the broader teacher education community are invited to submit items for the newsletter. Please contact [mactecommunication@gmail.com](mailto:mactecommunication@gmail.com) for more information.

## MACTE Updates

### **Fall Conference: See You October 23–24, 2025 in Plymouth**

We are excited to announce that the [MACTE's fall conference will be held on October 24 and 25th at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth!](#) Our fall conference is our only in-person event, as we will continue our practice of holding Winter and Spring conferences online next year. We hope that as many members as possible will join us at the Crowne Plaza for a day of meaningful dialogue, expert presentations, and collaborative engagement on key issues shaping our field.

We encourage you to reserve this date and make plans to attend. Further

details regarding registration, program highlights, and keynote speakers will be shared in the coming weeks.

## Submit a Fall Proposal

### **Spring Meeting Recap**

Over 110 people joined us virtually for our spring conference on April 4th. MACTE welcomed Dr. Allison Smith from the University of Massachusetts Global and Keith Walters from the Metcalf School of Education at California Baptist University who shared their work using AI to inform teacher preparation, especially AI tools used to assist in student teacher observations. In addition to the keynote presentation, the conference featured breakout sessions focused on reading, apprenticeships, creating safe schools for gender minority students, and the new computer science teaching standards.

The MACTE Executive Committee (MEC) is always interested in input from members about future conferences. Please feel free to reach out to your caucus representatives or Cari Maguire ([maguire@umn.edu](mailto:maguire@umn.edu)) with ideas for our fall conference.

### **Keri DeSutter Begins MACTE Presidency**

The spring conference marked the end of Darrell Stolle's term as MACTE president. The entire MACTE community would like to thank Darrell for his calm, steady leadership over the past two years. Darrell will continue to serve on the executive committee as past president for the next year. Keri DeSutter (Minnesota State Moorhead) has moved into the president role after serving for the past year as president elect and as a MEC member the previous year. Keri brings a wealth of experience to the role. Thank you to both Keri and Darrell for your service!

### **MEC Elections Held at the Spring Conference**

MEC is excited to announce that all three MEC members whose terms ended last month have been reelected for another two-year term. Thank you to Michelle Page, from the University of Minnesota caucus, Kala Kopitski, from the Minnesota State caucus, and Allison Spender from the Private caucus for your willingness to serve a second term!

Next year's MEC members are: Keri DeSutter, President (Minnesota State University, Moorhead); Darrell Stolle, Past President, (Concordia College); Karen Colum (Minnesota State University, Mankato); Kala Kopitski (Southwest Minnesota State University); Stacy Ness (Walden University); Allison Spenader, (St John's/St Benedict); Michelle Page (UMN Morris); and Eric Torres (UMN Duluth).

Thanks to all MEC members for your service!

## **TEACH MINNESOTA Site is Live!**

The Minnesota Department of Education has signed a multi-year contract with [Teach.org](https://teach.org). Teach.org is a non profit organization that helps states develop customized teacher recruiting systems. The TEACH MN website is now live, though still being developed.

To make Teach MN a success, Teach.org hopes to partner with Minnesota's TPPs. MEC has met with Teach.org's leaders and is excited to support their work to increase teacher recruitment in Minnesota. If your unit has not yet entered into an agreement to be part of TEACH MN, please consider doing so. Contact Angela Wanderlust ([awunderlich@teachmn.org](mailto:awunderlich@teachmn.org)) for more information.

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## **Legislative Updates**

The 2025 legislative session continues to be eventful. The House began with a three-week stalemate due to a March special election that resulted in a 67-67 tie between Republicans and Democrats. This even split led to a bipartisan power-sharing agreement, meaning any legislation passed in the House must have support from both parties.

Despite the initial delay, progress has been made in key House committees. The K12 House Education Policy Committee met its deadlines and advanced the policy bill HF 1306, while the K12 House Education Finance Committee passed the budget bill HF 1388, which is still making its way through the legislative process and will be the House's position in the upcoming conference committee. In the Senate, Democrats hold a narrow two-seat majority. The

Senate K12 Finance and Policy Committees passed their versions of the policy (SF 1740) and budget (SF 2255) bills. Once both chambers pass their respective bills, they will convene in conference committees to reconcile the differences before the May 19th deadline.

MACTE has identified several legislative priorities for 2025, including addressing the teacher shortage, supporting paid student teaching, maintaining strong teacher preparation standards, and addressing issues related to reading instruction in teacher education programs. A full legislative outcomes report will be published in early summer, after the session concludes.

You can find more detail in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) K12 budget spreadsheets. Here is a summary of some key differences heading into conference committee negotiations:

- The Senate cuts Grow Your Own by \$8M per year; the House maintains funding at \$31M per year.
- The Senate eliminates residency program funding; the House keeps it funded at \$3M per year.
- Neither chamber continues funding for the Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship program.
- PELSB's Licensure Preparation Pathways Grant program is funded at \$400K in the House and is cut in the Senate.
- CUGMEC funding remains unchanged in both chambers, though it is renamed the Educator Tuition Assistance Program.
- The paid student teaching pilot program did not receive additional funding by either chamber in the next biennium.
- Early Childhood GYO receives \$500K per year in the House; the Senate cuts this funding.

## **Teacher Development Opportunity**

The University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Campus is excited to offer Cambodian American Experience: Professional Development for K-12 teachers from June 24th-26th. This 3-day course is designed to support K-12 teachers in learning about the experiences and contributions of Cambodian people in the US, and better engage multicultural learners through culturally relevant materials and pedagogy. Access to curriculum, books, and supplies provided.

[For more information or to apply for the course, please click here.](#)

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# AACTE Updates

## **Preview the Washington Week Preliminary Agenda**

Our MACTE Legislative Liaison will be attending [AACTE's Washington Week](#), taking place June 2–4, 2025, in Washington, DC. This legislative conference enhances advocacy skills through expert-led sessions, Congressional visits, and discussions on policies that support educator preparation programs. [Learn more about Washington Week](#) and sign up to attend if you are able.

## **AACTE in Action: A 2025 Timeline of Advocating for Members**

As the leading voice in educator preparation, AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) is at the forefront of taking action to prevent education from being stripped of its resources, devalued as a profession, and politicized. During this unprecedented time, the work of educator preparation programs has never been more critical.

[Read the article for a timeline of actions](#) AACTE has taken to preserve federal education policy and funding and the outcomes up to the present.

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# PELSB Updates

## **Attorney General's Guidance for Teacher Preparation Providers and K-12 Schools**

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is aware that many school districts and teacher preparation providers are seeking guidance on recent executive orders. Minnesota's Attorney General, Keith Ellison, has joined with other states in [issuing guidance](#) that helps educational institutions in the state understand the legality, viability, and importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility policies and practices in education.

The multistate coalition’s guidance underscores that efforts taken by educational entities to seek out and support diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible educational experiences for students are legal, and that neither the executive order, the “Dear Colleague” letter, nor the FAQ from the Department of Education change longstanding and well-established legal precedent. [Read more.](#)

## **CPAST Pilot: Data Reporting Requirements**

In the fall of 2024, the Board granted approval for discretionary variance requests from multiple teacher preparation providers to use the Candidate Preservice Assessment of Student Teaching (CPAST) in place of the edTPA as a teacher performance assessment for initial licensure programs with the condition that preparation providers meet reporting requirements. [See PELSB’s website for a listing of teacher preparation providers that have been granted approval to use the CPAST in place of the edTPA.](#)

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