
MACTE April 2026 Newsletter

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April 2026 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 for more information.

MACTE Updates

Spring Conference Recap

Over 95 attendees joined MACTE for our April Spring Conference. We were excited to welcome Annie McClellan from the University of Illinois. Annie's keynote addressed ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in preservice preparation. Annie also facilitated an afternoon breakout session for members interested in engaging in deeper conversation

Members also received a legislative update from Legislative Liaison Laura Mogelson, heard from Paul Spies of Metropolitan State University on the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color & American Indian Teachers in MN, and

received updates from the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board. Breakout sessions included presentations from TeachMN, the UpLiFT Movement, and Elevate Teaching. The conference also included caucus and role-like/special interest group sessions that strengthened cross-sector collaboration among members.

MEC Elections Held at the Spring Conference

MEC is excited to announce that all three MEC members whose terms ended have been reelected for another two-year term. Thank you to Eric Torres, from the University of Minnesota caucus, Karen Colum, from the Minnesota State caucus, and Stacy Ness from the Private caucus for your willingness to serve a second term! Additionally, with the election of Michelle Page as President Elect, Sean Wachsmuth will join the University of Minnesota caucus.

Next year's MEC members are: Keri DeSutter, President (Minnesota State University, Moorhead); Michelle Page, President Elect (University of Minnesota Morris); Karen Colum (Minnesota State University, Mankato); Kala Kopitski (Southwest Minnesota State University); Stacy Ness (Walden University); Allison Spenader, (College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University); Eric Torres (University of Minnesota Duluth); and Sean Wachsmuth (University of Minnesota Duluth)

Thanks to all MEC members for your service!

Fall Conference: See You October 22–23, 2026 in Plymouth

We are excited to announce that the [MACTE's fall conference will be held on October 22 and 23 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, presentations, and collaborative engagement on key issues shaping our field.

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

Submit a Fall Proposal

TeachMN Update

It was great seeing many of you in our TeachMN breakout session at the 2026 Spring MACTE Conference! We appreciated the opportunity to connect with each of you to share about TeachMN's launch year, and upcoming opportunities. Below are resources and next steps for engaging with TeachMN:

- **Direct Links:**
 - [Conference Slide Deck](#)
 - [TeachMN 2026 Scholarship Toolkit](#)
- **Upcoming Results Counting**
 - TeachMN will begin our annual results counting process at the end of August of this year (2026). In order to do so, we want to understand each TPP's preference for working with us in the results counting process. If you did not attend the conference, reviewing step #1 below will be a great start, but please reach out to Angela and Annette if you have questions or would like to connect to learn further.
 - Please follow these next steps:
 - **By the End of the Academic Year:**
 - Review the description of TeachMN's data sharing process here (slides 16-23 in the Conference Slide Deck also offers additional information), and reach out to Angela and Annette with any questions (awunderlich@teachmn.org, akonoskegraf@teach.org)
 - Please complete this short [Google Form](#) to let us know your TPP's data sharing preferences

Teacher Appreciation Week: Celebrating You

On Wednesday, May 5, 2026 at the Kids In Need Foundation (St. Paul), MACTE members are invited to join an evening of community, connection, and celebration, brought to you by [Uplift Movement](#) , [Hamline University](#) CEUT, Black Educators Alliance, [Kids In Need Foundation](#) , and Elevate Teaching.

See the Event Flyer

Computer Science and AI Summer Training

Available

The Northern Lights Collaborative for Computing Education at the University of Minnesota is holding its [4th Annual EmpowerMN Computer Science and AI](#) professional development workshop this summer. Teacher educators are encouraged to attend and may qualify for mileage reimbursement. Contact the [Northern Lights Collaborative](#) for more information about mileage reimbursement.

Summer 2026 Newsletter Hiatus

Congratulations on the end of the 2025-26 academic year! The MACTE Newsletter will be on summer break in May, June, and July. We will return in August. The MACTE Executive Committee wishes you all a restful summer!

Legislative Updates

Navigating the 2026 Session

The 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session launched on Tuesday, February 17. As is typical for an even-numbered year, the legislature is primarily focused on the "bonding bill" for public infrastructure and essential policy adjustments rather than broad budget bills. The mandated adjournment date is Monday, May 18.

[Our ongoing legislative priorities include:](#)

- Protecting funding for teacher preparation
- Maintaining high-quality, transparent standards
- Enhancing reading instruction across all preparation programs

Conference Recap & Resources

During the April Spring Conference, Legislative Liaison Laura Mogelson provided a detailed update on these priorities, bills that have been heard in both chambers, and our concern around proposed modifications to [enrollment requirements and Tier 2 licensure](#). For those who were unable to attend or wish

to review the details, [the presentation slides are available here](#). Stay tuned for a mid-summer legislative report for a summary of the session and its impacts.

The Impact of the House Tie

The current legislative session is operating under a historic 67-67 tie in the House, which has mandated a "shared leadership" model. Because every committee is co-led by both parties, a 50/50 consensus is required to move any legislation forward. This has resulted in several key bills being "laid over" (put on hold) as bipartisan agreements are hashed out. While the Senate maintains a narrow one-seat DFL majority and continues to advance its own versions of finance and policy omnibus packages, the House remains in a deadlock. As we approach the May 18 deadline, this stalemate suggests the session may focus primarily on emergency technical fixes unless a broader compromise is reached.

AACTE Updates

Register for Washington Week 2026 before April 29 and save.

Washington Week 2026 is June 1–3 in Washington, D.C. AACTE's Call to Action is endorsed by more than a dozen national organizations and gives every attendee four concrete levers for change to bring into those meetings.

- Establishing an Office of Educator Workforce within the Department of Education
- Securing \$1 billion for innovative educator preparation through a new federal grant program
- Creating scholarship support for teacher candidates in high-need schools through a National Education Service Corps
- Building the research infrastructure educators deserve through a National Center within IES

Join the Minnesota team with our legislative liaison Laura in Washington DC! [Register before April 29 and lock in your spot at the early bird rate before the price goes up.](#)

AACTE Announces New Member Benefit That Expands Financing Options for Future Educators

[AACTE \(American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education\)](#) announced today a new strategic partnership with College Ave, a leading provider of private student loans, aiming to expand financing options for students pursuing careers in education.

The new member benefit offers students at AACTE member institutions access to [private loan options](#) built to help lower the total cost of borrowing when filling small funding gaps after federal aid, scholarships, and grants.

This exclusive member benefit demonstrates AACTE's dedication to strengthening the educator workforce by removing financial barriers that can prevent talented individuals from completing their preparation programs and entering the profession.

“Preparing the next generation of educators requires removing barriers that stand between talented individuals and the classroom,” said AACTE President and CEO Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, Ph.D. “Today, many students pursuing

education degrees face a growing financial gap. With federal loan limits that often fall short of covering the full cost of completing a degree — and with the recent termination of Graduate PLUS loans — future educators are increasingly forced to find additional resources simply to finish their programs. This partnership provides AACTE members access to private loan options designed specifically for supplemental borrowing, helping aspiring educators secure the final funding they need to graduate and enter a profession our nation urgently needs.” [Continue reading](#).

Holmes Scholars Elected to 2026–27 Council to Advance National Impact

AACTE announced the newly elected members of the Holmes Scholar Council for 2026–27, a group of emerging leaders committed to strengthening the AACTE Holmes Scholars Program and its national community.

Selected through a formal election process and announced in February during the Holmes Preconference at AACTE 2026, these scholars join Council President Reyan Warren (University of San Diego) and Vice President Isatou (Aisha) Secka (Ohio University) to form the full Council. Together, they will help shape program priorities, sustain key initiatives, and expand opportunities for Holmes Scholars nationwide.

“I am extremely thankful for the year ahead that we have together as Holmes Scholars and scholars worldwide,” said Warren. “I want to extend my congratulations to the new 2026–27 Holmes Scholars Council, as well as the AACTE 2026 Dissertation Funding Competition winners. Let’s continue to prioritize our health, our progress, and our happiness — and I hope to see many of you at Washington Week in June.” [Learn more about the Holmes Scholar Council for 2026–27](#).

PELSB Updates

PELSB Mailing List

If you do not already receive email updates from PELSB, [sign up for their mailing list here](#).

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