

A Message from the President

*Dr. Ashley Simpson, President
ECE/EDU Department Chair, Community College of Aurora*

It's All Worth It . . .

Whenever I submit my newsletter articles I try to stick to one of the four categories; the new member welcome, advocacy in the field, teacher preparation and appreciation, and community college benefits. To some, this is not a bad plan and to others you are probably thinking this is a criteria that I have to follow. However, truth is both groups are correct to some degree. I don't stick to these four categories because I have to, I do it because there is a passion for me within each category while I get the opportunity to align my writings with the heart of NACCTEP's mission and vision.

However, today I'm going to do something different, I'm going to add a category on students and student appreciation. Why? Well that's simple...because our careers and lives are centered around our students. I'm sure I am not the only person that spends day and night advocating, teaching, and designing around students and their needs. But the truth is how many of our students understand what we do and why we do it? I'm sure most of us can say, "Less than 10%" which is ok with me because I don't do what I do for understanding...I do it for change. We do know, however, that our students understand the power of praise and appreciation. In fact, our students would prefer that any day over all our other job responsibilities. They would love for us to recognize their hard work and dedication to their education and the education of children. And, I will be the first to say that sometimes I forget to recognize my students because I am so fixated on the "bigger picture." But not today! Since there isn't a "Student Appreciation Week/Month" I think it's time to show students we appreciate them and all of their hard work.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 states, "therefore encourage and build each other up, just as you are already doing." I try to live by this statement because it's important that I remember that my students are hard working adults that need to be lifted up to success. As community college administrators and instructors, we can't afford to forget that our students come to us with a goal **and** with their own lives. These two can sometimes conflict and cause students to feel discouraged and want to quit, which is where we come into play, we are here to recognize those conflicts and show students they can do whatever they set out to do. Proverbs 12:25 has taught me, "that anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad."

I will never underestimate what four-year universities and colleges do, but I will tell you that I love working at a community college because I have the opportunity to work with each of my students on a more personal level...I get to hear and see their anxiety and help them work their way to a good place. Community college students are unique not because of the negative stigma associated with community colleges, but because these students come to us with baggage that only we can unpack. With this I praise these students because they come with a, "take me as I am," attitude. They may start off afraid to ask for help but after one semester and a few great friends these students work hard to achieve and advocate for themselves and those around them. Each day, week, month, and semester I get to sit and listen to my students share their stories...and I will tell you the stories don't line up to their grades and achievements on campus. I know that seems like a strange statement but these students work hard to balance life, school, and so many other things that come their way...and they do it well. And, today I want to tell all



students that “we see you,” we understand your plight and we appreciate you each day you come to class and work hard. And, trust me when I say, “When it’s all done...it will all be worth it.”



During the first week of October NACCTEP held its Fall executive board meeting in Washington, DC providing an opportunity for NACCTEP Student Representative Kimberly Griffin and Member-at-Large Dr. Cecelia Monto to visit with Legislative Assistant Lakeisha Steele of Representative Suzanne Bonamici's (D-OR 1st) office.

If you have not already done so, please consider [joining](#) our partner organization AACTE.

The National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs (NACCTEP) and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) have launched a partnership for 2018-2019 to foster collaboration among their memberships through the common goals of advocating for, advancing, and diversifying educator preparation programs.

This pilot partnership connects 4-year degree-granting institutions and community college educator preparation programs to grow and strengthen the teacher pipeline, bring diversity to the field, and advance the preparation of educators.

AACTE and NACCTEP welcome community colleges to apply for the partnership program. Institutions participating in this partnership have access to an array of AACTE and NACCTEP benefits including discounted rates for conferences and events, a subscription to the *Journal of Teacher Education*, and access to joint NACCTEP and AACTE programming at the AACTE Annual Meeting.

<https://www.aacte.org/membership/aacte-nacctep-partnership>

A Message from the Executive Director

Kimberly Tobey, Director, Community Partnerships -Educator Preparation Field & Student Teaching Experiences, Rio Salado College

A PERSONAL INVITATION and a THANK YOU!

Truth be told, I'm not even sure how many of you read through this newsletter. In my mind it's millions, but it may only be a few of you...I hope it's at least a few!!!! That said, if you haven't stopped to read through the newsletter in a while, I hope that you will take the time this week to catch up on the work that's been taking place within NACCTEP and especially within our educator preparation programs. We are doing some amazing work across the country and we should be proud of ourselves for the difference that we are making in our communities.

To that point, as you may know, NACCTEP has officially joined in partnership with AACTE as affiliate members and because of this partnership we've been able to expand our voice and highlight the wonderful ways in which we impact and diversify the teacher pipeline. Of course, I would love nothing more than to have your institution join AACTE as an institutional member; which also provides a subsidy to NACCTEP allowing us to continue our work of advocating for the profession and the wonderful work taking place within our programs. BUT IF YOU CAN'T join as a member this year, I would like to personally invite you to attend the [2019 Annual Conference in Louisville, KY](#). We need you in attendance so that you can begin working with your four-year partners, hearing about trends in education, and highlighting the work that your program is doing to meet the needs of our non-traditional students. If you can make it to this year's conference, I want to personally extend an invitation for you to meet with our NACCTEP team during the conference; we'll be hosting a special social event during the conference that will be reserved for community college participants, AACTE staff, and the four-year partners within your state. Click on the link above or copy this path into your browser <https://www.aacte.org/professional-development-and-events/annual-meeting> to get information about registration. I cannot express how important it is for our community college members to be present at this event. Now is the time to ACT AS ONE to impact our profession. Gone are the days of partisan bickering about programs, instead we shall focus on lifting each other up, encouraging the heart, and meeting the very diverse needs of our students so that every child has a highly-qualified, culturally responsive, caring, and day-one-ready classroom educator.

Finally, I want to say THANK YOU. As I write this article, we are just about one week away from one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. Sure, I love all the food, and even the football, but what I really love is that it's one of the few holidays where nothing is expected except to remember to say thanks! I am thankful for the NACCTEP Board and Ambassadors who spend time with me monthly to implement our strategic plan, I'm thankful for those of you who are tirelessly meeting the needs of your students without any recognition for the extra mile that you go to make sure that they succeed, I'm thankful for Rio Salado College who supports the work of the organization, and I'm thankful for YOU. That's right, we may have never met, but if you are like the hundreds of other community college faculty, staff, and students that I have met, then you are a gem; your empathy for the marginalized is palatable,



your love for your communities is evident, and your desire to see everyone succeed is awe-inspiring. DON'T GIVE UP. We see you. We know you are tired. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU!

I look forward to seeing you in Kentucky. Our time is now.



NACCTEP Executive Board 2018: *Front Row:* President Dr. Ashley Simpson, Student Representative Kimberly Griffin, Member-at-Large Dr. Cecelia Monto, Vice President Dr. Linda Gronberg-Quinn, Member-at-Large Meghan Grenda; *Back Row:* Executive Secretary Jennifer Gladis, Member-at-Large Dr. Frank Kline, Member-at-Large Dr. Jennifer Gresko, Secretary Megan Kaplinsky, Executive Director Kimberly Tobey.

Ambassadors we need your voice and would love to hear about your school's achievements, innovations, and future plans for an Ambassador's Corner column in future newsletters. Please contact us at nacctep@riosalado.edu with your ideas TODAY!

Oregon Moves Forward with Universal Transfer Agreement in Education

*Cecelia Monto, Ed.D.
Dean, Education & Humanities, Chemeketa Community College*



University transfer has long been a recognized goal for community college students. However, the actual details of transfer have often been tricky and changeable and many students have faced unnecessary challenges on the path to degree attainment. In Oregon, legislators took notice of the difficulties presented in transfer, and initiated a dedicated “transfer bill”, known as House Bill 2998 in July 2017. The bill mandates the establishment of “Universal Statewide Transfer Agreements (*USTAs*) between community colleges and universities in all high utility discipline majors. In Oregon, the first four majors chosen were Biology, Business, Education and English. The transfer legislation aligns with the national *Guided Pathways* movement and embraces a call to better serve first generation and diverse students engaged in higher education.

The Oregon Education *USTA* committee was selected in February 2018 and is comprised of faculty and representatives from all public universities and community colleges with Education departments in the state. NACCTEP Board Member Dr. Cecelia Monto co-chairs the ED *USTA* committee in Oregon and has been an active champion in the transfer work. The committee’s goal is to develop a consistent and efficient *two plus two* transfer agreement that aligns with baccalaureate elementary education programs in Oregon. The committee also recognizes the positive potential that a community college pathway into education could have for recruitment and retention of diverse teacher candidates in the state.

To accomplish the assignment, the Oregon Education *USTA* committee reviewed numerous individual transfer agreements between specific community colleges and universities in the state. Evidence of the various agreements serves as a reminder that transfer pathways are possible in Oregon. However, the uniqueness of curriculum and approaches present in the university programs have created obstacles in creating consistency in a statewide community college transfer agreement. And while the individual agreements work for students who create and stick with one transfer plan to a specific university, community college students are highly mobile and often change their transfer destination plans. Deviation from a plan currently results in extra or different required coursework, which means a loss of time and money for students. Under new financial aid restrictions, students who accrue too many elective credits deplete their financial aid.

The ED *USTA* committee continues to move forward in Oregon despite the difficulties, due to a deep commitment to student success. The committee acknowledges that real students are suffering the consequences of inaction around transfer by institutions of higher education in Oregon. As the *USTA* committee moves forward, questions have arisen about the ability of the Oregon legislature to mandate policy upon higher education institutions. The target date for completion of the transfer agreement was set for December 2018. NACCTEP continues to play an active role in the adoption of a consistent transfer path from community college to university in Oregon. Look for further updates on this Oregon initiative in upcoming editions of the NACCTEP newsletter this year.



Magali Hernandez Navarrete began at Chemeketa Community College and then transferred to Pacific University so that she could stay in her community of Woodburn where she hopes to eventually teach.

Zaretta Hammond and Carlos Sequeira join future teacher candidates from Hillsboro School District pathway who transferred to Chemeketa and then to Pacific University.



Bilingual students who transferred from Chemeketa Community College to a university expressing gratitude for tuition supports from the Mexican Consulate.

Alumni Connection: Reconnecting with Community College Graduate & Educator – Jennifer Palmer

Jennifer Palmer

Kindergarten teacher, Alexander Hamilton Elementary



Leaving high school, I was never really sure what I wanted to do. My focus in college was split between two different future careers. My name is Jen Palmer and in 2005, I decided to attend Howard Community College (HCC) in Columbia, Maryland, and it was the best decision of my life. Not only did it allow me to explore numerous majors before I found the one that fit the adult me the best, but it allowed me to pay for my college while working full time at Target. Community college allowed me to not break the bank, while I was taking the time to learn about myself and what I wanted for my future. It didn't take me long to realize that I was destined for early childhood education.

It took me five years working full-time and going to HCC part-time to achieve my associates degree in early childhood education. I was able to do it as well almost completely debt free! HCC prepared me to transition in 2010 to Towson University in Towson, Maryland. HCC gave me the hands-on experience I desperately needed by providing me with exposure to a public school classroom setting, private early childhood education center setting, as well as experience in a special education classroom setting. Through the hands-on experience I received at HCC, I was able to find my passion for teaching young children.

Transitioning to a university was scary for me. I never took my SATs. I was too afraid of being labeled as not smart enough, but community college gave me the confidence and the degree to smoothly transition into a four year university in Maryland. Looking back on my career as a teacher, I have been teaching in an early childhood education center for almost 13 years and, after completing my degree at Towson 7 years ago, I began teaching Kindergarten in Baltimore City Public Schools. The building blocks I set up through community college and a four year college allowed me to become the best teacher I can be for the students in my classroom. It has ignited a passion inside me for always improving my practice and always learning new best practices for early childhood education.

In 2015, after I gave birth to my son Joshua, I had the confidence to return to school to begin my graduate degree in early childhood education. Earlier this year, Towson University asked me to join a delegation they sent to Washington, DC, to speak with US Senators and Representatives about an education bill under consideration. This December 2018, I will be walking across the stage and receiving my third degree in early childhood education and I could not have done it without the building blocks I laid at the foundation of my college career. I will be graduating with my Masters with over a 3.97 GPA, and I couldn't be more proud of myself.

Going from being afraid to take my SATs to completing a graduate degree with honors proves to me the choices I made after high school severely impacted my life for the better!

My advice to you as a soon-to-be high school graduate, current college student, parent of a child about to graduate, or even a person who decided to start a family before college - you absolutely can do this! No matter how scared you are or how unsure you are of what you want to do with your life, the first step is enrolling and taking that first class. Everything will come to you in time, and you may have to go through a few classes that don't fit you and your future, before you find where you belong, but I believe in you. If I can do it, you can too in community college.

If you know or are a graduate of a community college teacher preparation program, we need your voice and would love to hear about your achievements, career plans and future aspirations. Visit our website and submit your information via our [Alumni Connection](#) TODAY!



Please consider joining your NACCTEP and AACTE colleagues this February in Louisville for engaging discussions and interactive sessions on topics critical to the educator preparation field. Registration deadline is January 28, 2019!

<https://www.aacte.org/professional-development-and-events/annual-meeting>