
A Message from the President

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

Why Education?



What do you want to be when you grow up? A teacher, I exclaimed! I remember screaming as loud as I could...only to be muffled by voices that screamed louder saying, “You don’t want to be a teacher. You want to be a lawyer, a doctor, an engineer...anything but a teacher. Besides, you’re smart enough and bright enough to major in any field that you want. And, remember education doesn’t pay”. “Ok, your right. I’ll work towards being a physicist.” Years later, I realized Physics wasn’t for me, so I decided why not education? That’s right, **why not education?** Some of the very things that people listed as qualities that made me want to become a lawyer, doctor, engineer, and yes, even a physicist came from the influence of great teachers. And, why couldn’t I be one of those great teachers? No, I wasn’t going to be a physicist, but I could plant the seed of science in the

mind of a child and watch it bloom into what could potentially become the next Galileo Galilei, Robert Hooke or Sir Isaac Newton. So that’s what I did, I became a teacher!

Today I hear the same question, “Why education? As a department chair of a teacher preparation program, I try not to answer this question with a generic response. Instead, I try to answer the question with what I believe all teachers live and thrive by; education is a world that the benefit is not monetary. Instead, we get the satisfaction of knowing that we are shaping the minds of the future. We put in long hours of planning and teaching each year without complaining. Although, political agendas and budget cuts present their challenges, making it tempting to go other places and work. Yet, we stay. Why? Because we love education. We love what we do. We love the impact we make in the communities we serve. We have faith that one day, one of our students will put an end to political agendas, budget cuts and embrace the true of importance and the impact that teachers have on our nation. Until then, we continue business as usual and our work on making a difference in the lives of those we touch.

It is with this purpose in mind, that I would like to extend a warm **welcome** to each member of this great organization. It’s an exciting time for NACCTEP as we continue to grow. I know that no matter the course, NACCTEP’s goal will always be the same, “to advocate on behalf of students and educators.” We do this by advocating for teacher preparation programs, demonstrating that with proper pipelines, students can graduate from two-year colleges and transfer to four-year institutions to become great teachers and advocates in the workforce. Thereby changing the landscape and question from, “Why education?” to “Why not education?”

A Message from the Executive Director

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

Is Teacher Education Training in Jeopardy?

As I enter into my fourth year as NACCTEP Executive Director, I must say that my heart hurts! Not because of any particular physical ailment, but because of the overwhelming feeling that I have about the future of teacher training. In July of 2016, the US Department of Education identified that program enrollment was down for higher education and that “teacher preparation program enrollment declined at a faster rate than overall postsecondary education enrollment.” The data verified a decrease of 32 % between AY2010 and AY2013. While I realize it’s not time to throw in the towel, I am concerned that the media, our communities, industry and yes, even our own higher education institutions are not completely engaged in addressing teacher shortage and the need for qualified classroom teachers.



In Arizona, NACCTEP’s home-office state, legislation was passed this August to create secondary pathways into the classroom without any formal teacher preparation training. While a 2016 study by the Learning Policy Institute indicated that Arizona may be the least attractive state for teachers due to salary, I am not convinced that letting “just anyone” into our classrooms is the answer to the problem. I understand that Arizona’s own honorable Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O’Connor was recently told that her years as a law school lecturer would not qualify her for a secondary teaching certificate, but it’s possible that she’s an anomaly and not everyone will walk into the classroom with this same level of instructional and classroom management experience. I’m not convinced that not requiring some level of training for these individuals is beneficial to our classroom students. Maybe, just maybe, it’s time for our state, federal and industry leaders, as well as our communities to examine the possibility that teacher education training programs need more pathways options and that community colleges are the best place to train, recruit and certify a diverse teacher pipeline that impacts our local communities. If enrollment continues to drop within four-year university programs, then community colleges must be allowed to step-up to the plate and begin training educators in a cost-effective manner. This could be done by encouraging 90/30 partnerships, ensuring that articulations are clear and don’t create barriers for students and that bachelor’s degrees from community colleges are available in all states.

Finally, and here’s where I may get the most push back; let’s take a look at industry. Well-meaning industry leaders can often be heard stating how essential our teacher workforce is to building their future pipeline of employees. Yet, we still don’t see the appropriate level of buy-in from our industry partners. What would happen if industries began to view educators as their employees? Why not subsidize teacher salaries to ensure that industry has the best and the brightest teacher in the classroom. Classroom teachers are industries best advocates for their field so why not pay them the same salary that you would pay a marketing employee or new employee trainer? Again, I recognize that industry pays their fair share of taxes to our schools, but this is a request to view

teachers as employees. What would it look like if our current classroom teachers were paid the same salary as the student who they taught ten years ago that now works for the largest manufacturing company in their community? What if summer jobs for educators were guaranteed, for those who wanted them? Employing teachers and subsidizing salaries would be a win-win situation for all involved as teachers could then bring the real-world experience into the classroom, promote the local organizations and continue to be paid throughout the summer. I recognize, that it's not just about the salary but until we can adequately compensate our classroom teachers for the work they do of managing 40-45 staff members every day, completing annual strategic plans for growth and submitting annual reviews on the success of their "company" then we'll never see teaching grow again. We must build capacity within our communities to promote the importance of choosing education as a career. As we continue to address issues of equity and diversity, we must safeguard ourselves from promoting everything but teacher education. As more and more first generation students enter higher education, teaching must be a career that is not only valued but respected within our various communities and cultures.

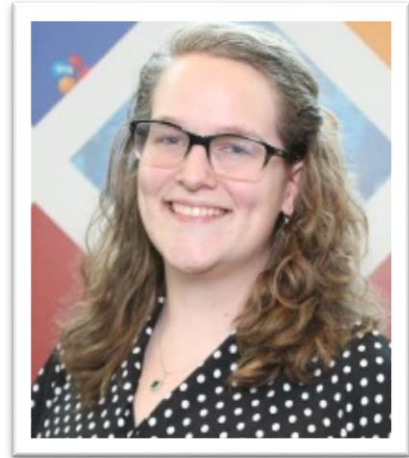
References:

- ◆ [Learning Policy Institute](#)
- ◆ [Sandra Day O'Connor](#)
- ◆ [Title II Report](#)

Getting to Know NACCTEP's Student Board Representative

Christina "Chryztii" Harrod, Community College of Aurora

Hello fellow teachers! I am thrilled to be the student representative for NACCTEP and hope that by contributing to the newsletter I can bring a voice for fellow future-teachers who are also students at community colleges. I would like to offer my own unique experience as a student from many different educational settings while also addressing the reasons why I decided to go into teaching by starting at a community college.



First and foremost, the month of August means a lot to me. August means new opportunities and a fresh start. Out of all my six siblings, none of us were born in August, but I get as excited for the first day of school as I do my birthday and Christmas. I've grown up in culturally diverse environments, most of my grade school was spent in Miami, Florida and Aiea, Hawai'i, where each have sculpted the way I see education. Everyone deserves an education, but not everyone is afforded the opportunity.

I was homeschooled at first and when I would tell people that in elementary school, they thought that meant I slept in and never had homework. These misconceptions in the education arena are among many reasons why I want to become a special education teacher. Some of my siblings are on the autism spectrum, I have ADHD, and my pediatrician (who adopted over 50 children; many with Downs Syndrome) inspired me to love children with all sorts of physical and learning disabilities just the same. We have our uniquely developed minds, but this does not make us in anyway intellectually inferior. I want to offer special needs students a challenging classroom where their skills can be fostered and improved so that others can see their talents before their titles. I want to break stereotypes.

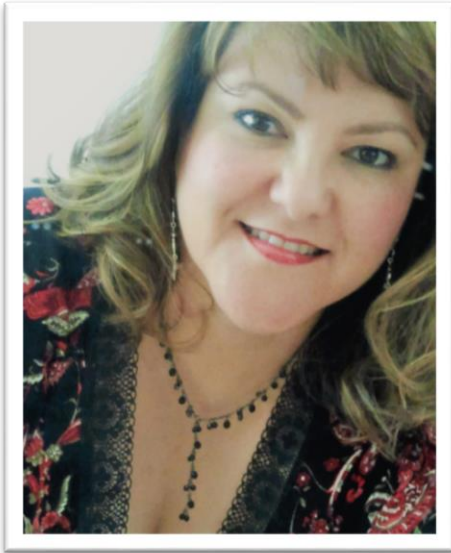
There are too many stereotypes wrapped around community college. For whatever reason, people still doubt the quality of education that is served at a community college. I believe that the smaller class sizes challenges students even more because the teacher can discuss if your average falls and can offer assistance. While I definitely had a lot of "dorm envy" the first semester after graduating high school, I see so many friends who went straight from high school into a traditional 4-year university struggling. One friend had a grade to dispute with their university professor, but they practically had to convince them that they were indeed a student in the class before they could even discuss the rationale behind the grade they received. Since then, they nearly lost their will to be a self-advocate.

My grand-dad jokes that the best part of going to the Community College of Aurora (CCA) is the fact that it's the cheapest, but I would argue that the reason why CCA has been the best choice lies within the name itself: community. With the size of the school, the administrators are no stranger to the students and the resources are bountiful. I have made connections with people that I would have never dreamed possible without the support CCA has given me. For example, I was able to

meet the superintendent of the Cherry Creek School District while attending a scholarship luncheon fundraiser; I was asked to call him as soon as I finish my degree to set up an interview.

The difference between my life as a student here compared to a traditional 4-year institution can be seen as an investment. I have invested wholeheartedly into the school and the return investment is even greater. I used to think I was “settling” for community college, because I too shared misconceptions and underestimated the opportunities available, however the travelling I have already done and continue to do for the college has proved this theory to be erroneous. I hope that I can collect more student feedback and continue to share my experiences with many of you. Have a great semester and best of Autumn wishes!

***Alumni Connection:
Reconnecting with Community College Graduate & Educator- Monica Madrid***



Academic History & Professional Interests:

- I attended a two year community college where I graduated with an AS in Pre-Education and transferred to a four year university where I earned my BA in Education. Then, about a year later, I enrolled in graduate school and completed my M. ED in Bilingual Education. I have my ADE teaching certificate in Elementary Education and I am endorsed K-12 in Spanish/bilingual.

- I have mainly elementary education training and teaching; the middle grades 4th, 5th, and 6th grades are where most of my experience is stronger.

- My most recent experience has been teaching 5th grade. I also taught 4th grade for a few years and I very much

relate to the Social Studies portion of the 4th grade curriculum, which is teaching about the magnificent state of Arizona! My student teaching was completed in a 6th grade classroom in the Tucson area. I also taught a semester with the University of Maryland in Germany, it was a pilot class for child care providers who were interested in earning their Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials. Only seven students registered so the class was not offered after the semester ended.

- Currently I am not teaching. I am seeking to be employed in a higher education institution. I remember when I started on this ship called “Go to College” my original goal was to be in college, but, not necessarily as a student. My desire was to be either a professor, advisor, or being in the role of outreach and interacting with the community and promoting how fabulous and beneficial the idea of attending a place of higher learning can be and how enriching one’s life will be after all the learning he or she has gained. So, on my voyage I would like to dock at a college or University.

- **Discuss the ways in which the mission of the community college differs from those of other institutions of higher learning.**

- Since community colleges have open admission policies to where almost anyone can pursue what community colleges have to offer, many people in the community enroll in various courses from academic, career and technical life-long learning, university transfer, continuing education, and workforce development. This is the primary focus for community colleges. For other citizens, while employed or not, the college offers the potential to re-career themselves and gain valuable workforce training opportunities. Therefore community colleges are an asset to the higher education establishment by allowing almost anyone who would like to attend, a reasonable, efficient opportunity to be successful.

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- **As an instructor/educator, identify the challenges you may face in the classroom and what strategies to implement success?**
 - As an instructor I have already come across the behind the curve ball regarding technology in the classroom. I have worked in a school where smartboard technology was in scaffolding stages in the building to where some teachers had the latest bells and whistles all the way to the ones who only had an old television monitor attached to a desk top computer used in the late 90s. This technology was coming into the building one or two at a time and some of the teachers who were receiving smartboards and the computers accompanying them, did not know how to properly use them and therefore would only show DVD movies checked out from the library.
 - How I addressed the issue is to request the use of the older technology equipment and asked the IT department to set it up for me and I did my best to incorporate it in lessons. With that said, I am aware that technology is quite up to date at the Maricopa Colleges so my issue then would be to keep up with how to use the technological items by attending as much training as possible and allowed to ensure I would be able to provide a quality learning environment for all the learning styles of each student. It is important for me to have my tools sharpened and be prepared for anything that may come up.

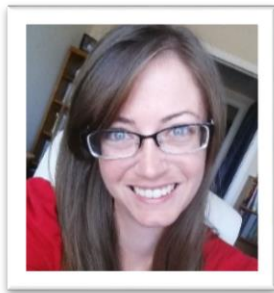
If you know or are a graduate of a community college teacher preparation program, we need your voice and would love to hear about your achievements, career plans and future aspirations. Visit our website and submit your information via our [Alumni Connection](#) TODAY!

2017-18 NACCTEP Scholarship Recipients

The NACCTEP National Scholarship Program was founded to help member college students realize their dreams of becoming an educator. NACCTEP is continuing its commitment to provide its annual \$1,000 scholarships to two eligible candidates. Additionally, due to the generosity of the Michigan Association for Community College Educator Preparation (MACCEP), we were able to support two additional students with \$400.00 scholarships.

On behalf of NACCTEP Executive Director, Kimberly Tobey and our Executive Board, we extend a warm thank you to Mr. Mike Ennis, the MACCEP organization and our scholarship committee for their consideration, dedication and hard work during this process. Additionally, we congratulate our scholarship recipients on this wonderful achievement.

NACCTEP SCHLOARSHIP



Kristin Koenner, Palm Beach State College



Brent McGinn, Rio Salado College

MACCEP SCHLOARSHIP



***Karen Ulmer
Cowley County Community College***



Aaron Sweet, College of Western Idaho