



Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators

May 2022 Update

**This month's issue focuses on transitions in teacher education:
Change in Leadership at PDE
Time to Renew Your Membership
Honoring PAC-TE Board Members**

BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR PAC-TE MEMBERSHIP

PAC-TE membership runs for one year at a time, July 1 - June 30. That means that all current members who wish to renew their membership should try to take care of that this month. If your membership is through your college/university, please ask your department leadership to renew its Institutional Membership with PAC-TE at <https://www.pac-te.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3284>. If you have an Individual Membership, e.g. Retired, Student, or an individual who is not covered by an institutional membership, please renew your Individual Membership at the Individual Membership [page](#). Dues remain the same for next year as they have for the past several years.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

PDE Secretary Ortega Resigns

PAC-TE wishes to report the resignation of the PDE Secretary of Education, Dr. Noe Ortega. Ortega was a familiar face to those who have attended PAC-TE's fall Teacher Education Assembly in recent years, as he graciously made efforts to work with PAC-TE. In fact, under Ortega, PAC-TE enjoyed stronger connections and provided valuable information that impacted some of the pandemic era decisions made by Ortega and the PDE.

Resignations of this type may be expected towards the end of a governor's term in office, as appointed leaders seek opportunities to continue leading an organization once a new governor takes office. However, press releases have not indicated that Ortega has taken a new position yet. We wish Secretary Ortega success and best wishes.

An interim Secretary of Education has been named by Governor Wolf. He is Wolf's deputy chief of staff Eric Hagarty. PAC-TE will continue to monitor the change of administrators and work to continue its strong working relationship with PDE.



"Attempting to regain equilibrium takes work, and I am thankful to all those in PAC-TE who strive to do that good work every day..."

From our President

Life is kind of crazy these days. Honestly, in so many ways, the world seems to be tilting more off kilter every day. But, like all good educators, we tend to just keep leaning into it, finding our footing, marching on for the sake of students. Attempting to regain equilibrium takes work, and I am thankful to all those in PAC-TE who strive to do that good work every day, and give of themselves to keep this organization vital, current, and heard.

I want to thank Dr. Denise Tyson and Dr. Beatrice Adera for leading a stellar Spring Planning Committee and for engaging us in a terrific Spring Conference with an inspiring keynote and thoughtful break-out sessions. I want to thank John Ward and the host of attendees at our T.E.D. in Harrisburg. The event was a great success with a tremendous line up of speakers headlined by Senator Hughes and Dr. Tanya Garcia. My appreciation goes out to all those who spoke in support of teacher education programs as well as to those members who saw the value in bringing students to the event. Finally, I'd like to thank those who have given a great deal of their time serving PAC-TE and its members: Dr. Jen Fisler, an outgoing Board member representing private institutions, and Dr. George Drake, our esteemed Past-president who will be relinquishing that role to me very, very soon!

Speaking of relinquishing... I will take this opportunity to say Good Luck to John Ward, upcoming President, and Tom Conway, upcoming President-elect. I thank you for taking on this challenge, and I look forward to passing the gavel, working with both of you on the Executive Board as we continue to move PAC-TE successfully into the future.

Last, but certainly not least, I'd just like to mention my deepest appreciation for the work of Dr. Noe Ortega. He allowed PAC-TE's partnership with PDE to take on a whole new complexion, and though we

intend to maintain our relationship with the Bureau, I would certainly be remiss if I did not call out the well-intentioned initiatives of which he was a champion, and personally extend my thanks for all of his work as Secretary and Deputy Secretary.



In all, what I hope that I'm getting across here is that I am grateful to this organization, and to those who have allowed me to represent you as President for the last 2 years. I am humbled to be a part of you, and I look forward to my time as Past-President!

Have a fantastic end to your semester and a restful, rejuvenating summer!

Gwen Price, PAC-TE President

Honoring PAC-TE Board Members for Their Service

The month of May begins the transition of PAC-TE Board Members whose terms are ending. We are going to miss the professionalism and dedication of the following Board members:

- **Dr. George Drake**, retired Dean of College of Education and Human Services and the School of Social Work, Millersville University. George has served for six years on the Board, beginning as President-elect in 2016-17 and most recently serving as Past President. Many of you know George and we will all miss his leadership. Best wishes in your retirement, George!
- **Dr. Jennifer Fisler**, Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies; Professor of Education at Messiah University. Jenn began her term as a Director representing Private institutions in 2018-19. We will miss her thoughtful insights and wish her well as she oversees the graduate programs at Messiah.

PAC-TE also celebrates the following Board members who have been recognized by other institutions for their contributions to teacher education:

- **Dr. Sally Winterton**, PAC-TE Board Member and a Past President, and Professor Emerita at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, was recently named to the "**150 Most Influential Women of West Chester University**" by the university President's Commission on the Status of Women. Named in conjunction with the university's 150th anniversary, Sally was included in the list that considered over 350 nominees. What an honor! [Click here](#) to read the story; you may discover other women you know on the list.
- Dr. Gwyneth Price, current PAC-TE President, was named to "**The 2022 Higher Education Power 100 -- Recognizing the most powerful educators in Pennsylvania.**" Although Gwen believes it is simply a respect paid to her for her role in PAC-TE, we must acknowledge that it reflects much more than that. We applaud you, Gwen! To view the list and see who else you might know, and to check out the good company listed along with Gwen, [click here](#). The list was composed by City & State PA, which bills itself as "the premier multi-media news

firm that dedicates its coverage to Pennsylvania's state and local government, political and advocacy news."

Save These Dates

October 26- 28, 2022 PAC-TE Teacher Education Assembly (in person), at Best Western Premier The Central Hotel & Conference Center, Harrisburg

PAC-TE is a state unit of AACTE and ATE



AACTE and PAC-TE collaborate to strengthen their advocacy efforts, share experience and expertise, and expand their members' professional development opportunities. To this end, our Chapter's relationship with AACTE is a voluntary affiliation that allows us to advance our members' interests.



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