



Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators

April 2023 Update

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This is a longer issue than normal, but it's packed with important topics and updates, since it may be the last issue you see before the semester ends.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Can You Come to Harrisburg on April 26?

Legislators Need to Hear from You

One aim of our association is to seek solutions and policies that reflect the goals and concerns of our members.

Teacher Education Day at the Capitol on April 26 gives you a chance to share your opinion with legislators and observe them in action. (See below for information on recent state legislative activity)

We have a schedule that gives you (and any students you may wish to bring) time to seek out your district representatives in either the State Senate or the House of Representatives and provide them with your boots-on-the-ground perspective; enjoy lunch on your own at the restaurants surrounding the majestic Capitol building; and assemble for a press conference in the rotunda.

Our line up of speakers includes PAC-TE officers, PSEA leaders, Sate

Senators, and others speaking on our theme “Meeting the Challenge through Professional Preparation”.

Click [this link](#) to learn more or to let us know you are coming. Registered attendees will receive additional details through email.

Keep Abreast of Current State Efforts

Here are several current activities that may impact our profession. We encourage you to get involved in those that concern you most:

1. Governor Shapiro's Plan For New Teacher Apprenticeship Program Partnership To Fill Critical Shortages -- The departments of Labor & Industry (L&I) and Education (PDE) aim to confront Pennsylvania's teacher shortage by expanding the apprenticeship model in the education sector to include training for individuals like paraprofessionals and teachers' aides who want to become certified elementary and secondary teachers. L&I and PDE are looking for partners to create a new apprenticeship model specifically designed for and targeting this population. **Scroll down for article** with a link to the grant.
2. Research on candidates' reasons for not getting certification -- 18 educator preparation programs across the state have indicated their willingness to assist research Meagan Steiner--contracted by the Pennsylvania Statewide School Improvement team, which supports high-need K-12 schools-- on a Teacher Pipeline Project. Concerned by the lack of applicants for positions at high-need schools, the project aims to increase program completion and certification among promising teacher candidates, especially candidates of color and candidates in shortage certification areas.
3. **#PANeedsTeachers**, a coalition working to make changes in policy for, access to, and preparation for teacher certification, as well as many changes in the working conditions of classroom teachers, has been hard at work formulating its agenda and its strategies for implementation. PAC-TE is monitoring their efforts and encourages you to do likewise. You can read their initial report [here](#).
4. Under development now are plans are to introduce legislation to create a student teacher stipend program.



PAC-TE's Fall Conference Seeks Varied Proposals

This year, the TEA conference committee is seeking proposals

Consider one of three strands:

Rooted in 1:1 Action: Discuss the creation of, or commitment to, research, projects, or ideas where practitioner’s agency and expertise contribute to changes within your immediate circle of reach;

Rooted in Community Action: Discuss the creation of, or commitment to research, projects, or ideas where practitioner’s agency and expertise contribute to progress within your own network;

Rooted in Systemic Action: discuss the creation of, or commitment to research, projects, or ideas where practitioners’ agency and expertise contribute to institutional and/or systemic change.

See additional descriptions and details at [this link](#).

that tell the story of teaching as a profession of advocacy and empowered action: deeply thoughtful yet unapologetic commitment to serving our students, our communities, and the value of our profession. The 2023 TEA Conference theme, THIS is Us, invites teachers, teacher educators, and institutions to **celebrate the journeys taken, contributions made, and victories earned during this period of radical transformation; regardless of the size, scope, or perceived level of impact.**

Go to **Proposal**.

DEADLINE for proposal submissions is midnight, May 1, 2023.

Review of proposals will take place between May 15 - June 1 with notice of acceptance/rejection going out by June 15, 2023.

Janai Lockhart awarded the Executive Directors' Scholarship

Created to honor PAC-TE's former Executive Directors, the annual scholarship is given to a deserving undergraduate or graduate student pursuing teacher certification at a college or university in the Commonwealth who has a GPA of 3.5 or higher. The monetary amount of the scholarship is \$1000.00.

Janai is a junior at Penn State Harrisburg, where she is seeking a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Mathematics Grades 4-8.

According to Dr. Jane Wilburne, Chair of Teacher Education, Janai "promotes the importance and the responsibility of future educators to be committed to helping all students succeed. She demonstrates the implementation of culturally responsive pedagogies in her work with K-4 students and she takes the initiative to create lessons that



" I want to prompt every student to believe that they are “math people”, have the potential to excel at math, and can succeed

make mathematics relevant and meaningful to the students."

Another faculty member, Dr. Mary Napoli, stated "Her ability to plan interdisciplinary lessons aligned with relevant standards, objectives, and assessments is exceptional. Moreover, Janai's written and oral presentations reflect her commitment to increasing student curiosity while deepening their understanding of math concepts."

PAC-TE commends Janai for her efforts and wishes her the best in her academic and professional career. It was a pleasure to see Dr. John Ward, PAC-TE President, present the news to Janai during the opening session of our Spring Conference on March 22.

in school." -- Janai Lockhart, 2023 winner of the PAC-TE Executive Directors' Scholarship

Note: Another Executive Director's Scholarship will be available soon. Keep your eyes open for a worthy candidate that you could nominate. The award has traditionally been made in the fall. Let's try to get an award presented at this fall's in-person conference.



Pictured are President-elect Tom Conway (Cabrini University) and Board Member Sara Rutledge (Mt. Aloysius College) accepting the award at the ATE Awards Banquet in Jacksonville, FL.

Association Updates

The Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) recently awarded PAC-TE for the fourth year in a row an Outstanding State Unit Award- this time for Program Services.

Associate Editor Search
PAC-TE is seeking applicants for one Associate Editor position for the *Pennsylvania Teacher Educator* journal. The position description, qualifications and application process are provided [here](#).

Spring Conference Recap

Attendees at PAC-TE's Spring Conference shared comments such as:

"The app was great. I enjoyed the virtual experience and gained a lot of great tips. The virtual option is a very good way to connect while still providing excellent content. It also saved on hotel and other travel costs. We have limited travel budgets, so the option to join the event on a virtual level was appreciated. "

"The PDE session addressing Chap. 49 assurances helped address some questions. "

"Thanks for providing a time and space to discuss the new sets of competencies. I am not sure how I would deal with all of the changes to teaching requirements without the support of PACTE!"

If you missed it, we were able to hear from experts and practitioners including keynoter Troy Hutchings, as well as Oliver Dreon, Beth Sockman, Diane Santori, and others who shared insights, experiences, and tips pertaining to the three new competency areas that PDE has required be added to all initial certification programs by the fall of 2025.

Attendees commented on the major takeaways from these presenters:

"I loved the ethics keynote and the structured literacy session. Thanks to the presenters for sharing their wealth of resources in the virtual goodie bag."

"I appreciate the idea of integrating the competencies across the various courses so the information can be taught more naturally as applicable to topics throughout the program."

"The buzz for those of us in the ELA world is structured literacy. This breakout session reviewed some of the items that were discussed at the PACTE Conference Fall 2021. However, now a year and a half later, with the new structured literacy standards in hand, the application of the details was much more digestible. I'm looking forward to May 16th's conference devoted specifically to this topic." (For more information on the May 16th conference, see article below.)

PDE representatives included new Deputy Secretary Dr. Kate Shaw and Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden, Director of the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality, with support from your PDE liaisons Jamal Wakeem and Stephanie Stouffer.

PAC-TE thanks all presenters and session presiders who gave of their time and wisdom.

Many of the resources shared at the conference are available on our website under Events -> Spring Conference Resources.

As always, it was a privilege to spend the day with so many colleagues, this year numbering over 160 who attended at least a portion of the conference. We hope to see you in the Fall, at the Teacher Education Assembly (TEA). Dates are listed below.

Looking for a Grant?

- **[Building and Supporting a Certified Teacher Registered Apprenticeship](#)**

Program -- The application deadline is Thursday, June 1, 2023, by 4:00 PM

- Travel to India & Nepal this summer: -- The University of Pennsylvania's South Asian Center is offering three grants of \$1,500 each for teachers to travel on GEEO's India and Nepal program running from July 30 to August 15, 2023. More information about the program can be found [here](#). To apply for the grant, please click [this link](#).

Professional Development Opportunities

1. **Pennsylvania Higher Education Summit May 16 -- FREE!** This is a summit for anyone committed to teacher preparation in Structured Literacy (SL). Attend if you want to understand the new Chapter 49 regs, and competencies, and how universities are embedding SL in their coursework. Click [here](#) for information and to register.
2. **The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) Seeks Members for its 2023/2024 Class** -- The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) is a professional development program for individuals whose work record reflects strong leadership abilities and a concern for issues important to children and education. [Click Here to Learn More](#) Information about the 2023/2024 EPLC class can be found at their website: epfc.org.

Important Dates to Remember

May 1- June 30 Renew your PAC-TE membership before June 30

October 25- 27 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.



The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators

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If you have suggestions for a future *Update*, please contact us using the methods shown above.

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