

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM GWEN PRICE (Clarion University), PAC-TE PRESIDENT



Welcome to PAC-TE's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Teacher Education Assembly and our FIRST EVER *virtual* fall conference! We are happy that you have decided to join us for this new and exciting adventure, and hope that you gain knowledge from the presentations, relationships from the networking opportunities, energy from the visions shared, and solace from the friendships that are renewed. Our conference Planning Committee has worked diligently to provide us with a program that will help us "***Sharpen our Focus on Teacher Preparation***", encourage us to think differently, challenge us to grow, and inspire us to advocate for our profession. Though it is always disappointing not to be able to physically be together with those with whom we share common ground, it is my hope, and the Committee's hope, that you will take advantage of all this virtual conference has to offer! Whether near or far, we are PAC-TE, and we stay true to our purpose of providing opportunities for professional growth and a chance to build our voice for professional educator preparation. I hope to see you all gracing my computer screen in the near future!

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM TOM CONWAY (Cabrini University), 2020 TEA CHAIR



It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the 49<sup>th</sup> Teacher Education Assembly. It is a historic time in our country with the global pandemic, national unrest, and a presidential election. When our committee thought about themes, we were focused on the interplay around perfect vision on the eye chart (20/20). Since the selection, so much has happened to shake up the landscape of higher education. *Sharpening the Focus of Teacher Preparation* continues to be a perfect theme, as we gather virtually to share our ideas, research, and connect around these important topics.

Our keynote speaker, Elena Aydarova, will bring us her perspectives in the Founder's Lecture with her talk - *Disrupting the Disruptors: Reimagining Policy Advocacy in a Post-Truth Era*. I know firsthand that you will enjoy her remarks and they will provide us with the challenge to not only continue our work in Pennsylvania, but what we also need to focus on at the national level.

The Whova platform allows us to connect in many ways. Take advantage of both the web application and the mobile application that are offered through this platform. Through the community board, message system, and session Q&A, you will be able to interact with your fellow conference attendees using 21<sup>st</sup> century communication techniques. We thank you for your full participation over the days of the conference.

It is my hope that you find our virtual conference to be both scholarly and engaging. Even though virtual, your presence and participation are vital to our communal efforts to sharpen our focus in continuing to be the best teacher preparation programs not only in the Commonwealth, but dare I say, the country.