

# College of Education Faculty University of Phoenix Conference Call

November 17, 2010  
4-5 p.m.

## Overview

On November 17, 2010, just under 300 faculty members of the College of Education attended a teleconference hosted by University of Phoenix. Information was shared regarding National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) assessments, the new learning management system, program updates at the college and efforts to increase communication to faculty. A question and answer section fielded faculty-submitted concerns regarding resources, career paths, student skills and mentorship.

Additional college-specific calls will be held in future to maintain open lines of communication with College of Education faculty.

Speakers on the call were Dr. Russ Paden, Vice President of Academic Operations; Dr. Adam Honea, Provost and Senior Vice President, University of Phoenix; and Dr. Meredith Curley, Dean of the College of Education.

## NCATE Accreditation Update

The College of Education is currently seeking accreditation with NCATE. A voluntary action, NCATE accreditation would be in addition to TEAC (Teacher Education Accreditation Council) accreditation currently held by the MAED/ TED programs.

Program reports have been submitted to specialty area agencies that have national standards in early childhood education, special education, elementary education, administration and other areas, explained Dr. Curley. NCATE will receive the University's institutional report on December 1. Additional program reports will be submitted in March 2011. An NCATE site visit will likely happen in the fall of 2011.

Dr. Curley was excited to report that recommendations coming out of the NCATE reports mirror feedback from faculty, campuses and our program assessments. "We are moving in the right direction as a college," said Dr. Curley, "and the direction of course and program revisions is moving forward."

Faculty members interested in participating in NCATE efforts or curriculum review are invited to contact their Campus College Chair.

## Content Councils & Faculty Councils

The College of Education facilitates multiple Content Councils. These councils help with curriculum and program design, look at assessment data and conduct data analysis. This past year, content councils looked specifically at special education, at reading, and the NCATE accreditation.

The Faculty Council is comprised of campus college chairs who are active faculty participants and also of faculty from across the country. This council has also been working on numerous NCATE-related projects, including the Conceptual Framework, standards alignment, review and analysis of assessment data, and providing feedback on new Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) standards.

Those interested in participating on a Content or Faculty Council are invited to pass their information on to their Campus College Chair.

### College of Education Program Updates

Thanks to diligent efforts by regional teams, approval has been received for new programs in Colorado and California.

An MAED in early childhood education and an MAED in special education, along with a certificate in special education, are now approved in Colorado. An MAED and a certificate program in the field of principal preparation (administration and supervision) have been approved for California. A new Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, aimed at undergraduate candidates looking to pursue multiple subject (elementary) credentials, has also been approved for California. A new degree program, the MAED in curriculum instruction with a specific focus on reading (MAED/CI-RD) will initially be available in Arizona, online, Florida and Nevada. A completely revised MAED administration program that prepares new principals is also available. The new MAED/ADM is aligned to the new Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) standards and was designed using research from the Southern Educational Research Board (SREB).

Faculty members should check with their local Campus College Chair to find out when these programs will arrive at their campuses.

### Teacher Leadership

The MAED in teacher leadership has seen significant attention this year. This program celebrates the best that teachers have to offer and allows individuals to capitalize on their inherent skills as teacher leaders. "Principals are noting the need for teacher leaders in successful schools and are supporting their teachers looking to pursue this degree," said Dr. Curley.

The College of Education was asked to sit on a national teacher leadership consortium. This consortium developed a set of teacher leadership standards to be used as a framework for examination and discussion. Dean Curley was thrilled with this "great opportunity for the University of Phoenix to work in collaboration at the national level to develop teacher leadership standards."

### Partnerships

The University is entering its third year as sponsor of the National Teacher of the Year Program, run via the Council of Chief State School Officers. The University provides Teaching It Forward scholarships to each of the state teachers of the year. This enables each Teacher of the Year to nominate a graduating senior for a full undergraduate scholarship at University of Phoenix. "Presenting the scholarships was probably the most professionally rewarding opportunity I've ever had," said Dean Curley.

The next round of scholarships will be presented in January 2011.

The College of Education's Faculty Council has been looking at the new and revised Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) standards. This opportunity was part of our partnership work with the Council of Chief State School Officers. "There may be upcoming opportunities to be engaged in this dialog, which is very exciting," said Dean Curley.

### New Learning Platform

Provost Honea discussed the rollout of the new learning platform, which he described as "not only a new classroom, but new technologies outside the classroom, such as PhoenixConnect." An academic social network, PhoenixConnect has been provided to the School of Business and approximately 145,000 students and faculty are using the tool to engage in conversation. Plans to provide PhoenixConnect to students and faculty in other colleges are on the horizon. "This will hopefully become the largest academic social network in existence," said Provost Honea.

### Faculty Engagement Survey

The Provost briefly revisited the Faculty Engagement Survey, the results of which were discussed more in-depth during the All-Faculty Conference Call in August. Survey results pointed to two main areas of faculty concern: compensation and communication. Human Resources is currently working on a study of higher education faculty compensation to determine a compensation strategy for University faculty. A focus on faculty engagement and new lines of communication, including the College of Education teleconference, are of high importance to the University. The creation of a publication aimed specifically at faculty was also mentioned.

### Student Success

Dr. Curley discussed the Center for Writing Excellence as one of many tools at faculty members' disposal to help students along in terms of critical writing. Peer tutoring, WritePoint, and utilizing the early alert system in place at the campus level were also mentioned.

Provost Honea touched upon University 100, a new three-week orientation provided free to students transferring in less than 24 credits. "With University 100, students actually learn our system and can make an informed decision on whether or not they're actually ready to go into their first class," he explained.

### Faculty Success

Dr. Curley noted that all College of Education courses are updated on a two-year cycle, which includes course materials and textbooks. She also discussed the availability of tools to help student teachers, noting that the Faculty Council has been brainstorming some best practices around the areas of field experience, student teaching and student support.

### Reinventing Education

Dr. Honea touched on the considerable press regarding for-profit schools, noting that many articles frequently refer to University of Phoenix. “This happens because University of Phoenix is large and is well-known, and it actually makes for press,” he explained. “Several years ago, we had begun a reinvention process, and we were already addressing most of the concerns that are just now being presented in the press. University of Phoenix has been a leader in the for-profit sector thanks to our ability to be proactive, not reactive, to education and learning trends.”

### Closing

In closing, Dr. Paden thanked all faculty members for taking time to join the call and for emailing in questions and concerns. It is hoped that forums such as this will further help faculty understand the direction of the College of Education and provide relevant information to keep everyone informed and energized.

**For those interested in sending follow-up questions, e-mail [facultycommunications@phoenix.edu](mailto:facultycommunications@phoenix.edu).**