



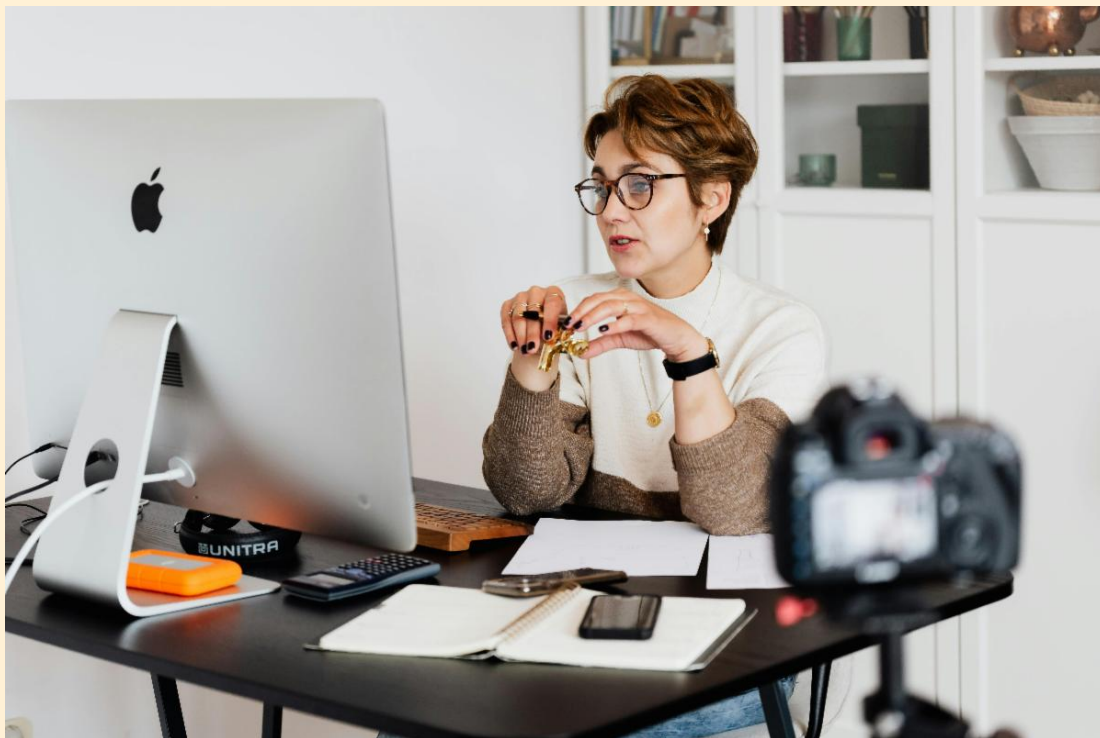
Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators

April 2024 Update

In This Issue:

1. **Saluting Our Members**
2. **Spring Conference Recap**
3. **Keep Abreast of Current State Efforts**
4. **President's Corner**
5. **Time to Renew for Next Year**
6. **Association Updates**
7. **Fall Conference News**
8. **Professional Development Opportunities**

Saluting Our Members



As the academic year draws to a close, we want to take a moment to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all teacher educators, education professionals, and institutions involved in shaping the future of education. Your unwavering dedication, expertise, and commitment to

nurturing the next generation of educators are truly commendable.

At PAC-TE, we recognize and value the vital role that professional educators play in the field of teacher education. Your tireless efforts in preparing future educators do not go unnoticed, and we are dedicated to supporting and recognizing your contributions.

Through our collaborative efforts with our partner associations and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, PAC-TE continues to provide valuable resources, networking opportunities, and professional development initiatives that contribute to the advancement of teacher education. Together, we strive to elevate the standards of teacher preparation and support the growth and development of educators across the Commonwealth.

As you reflect on the past academic year and look ahead to new opportunities, we encourage you to stay connected with PAC-TE for ongoing support, networking, and access to resources that will enhance your professional journey. Your commitment to excellence in teacher education is truly inspiring, and we are here to support you every step of the way. Thank you for your dedication to the field of education.

[Spring Conference Recap](#)

Almost 100 attendees gathered online for PAC-TE's annual spring conference on March 20. With a theme focusing on building impactful support networks, attendees learned about the value of cementing partnerships with our PK-12 partners, other higher education partners, and partner associations across the broader landscape of education.

Keynote speaker Dr. Rebecca West Burns, who currently serves as Kutztown University's Dean of the College of Education, was well-received and insightful. Attendees who took the time to complete a post-conference survey made comments such as, "[She] was fantastic. She is such a focused and visionary researcher and leader." Rebecca provided "many terrific resources and actionable steps to take."

Other highlights include the valuable breakout sessions. Attendees had the opportunity to learn from PAC-TE colleagues and other invited speakers who shared their research and practical

experience with Instructional Coaching as a recruitment strategy; a panel of school social workers, counselors, psychologists speaking about ways school support staff are positioned to help educators address the real challenges of student safety, mental health, and readiness to learn; and, a "fireside chat" experience with Dr. Burns.

Important to many attendees was the hourlong session with leaders and liaisons at PDE. "PDE is always valuable", said one attendee. "PDE information session and their Q and A was helpful. "Thank you for providing PDE updates."

Special thanks to the Conference Chair, Dr. Beatrice Adera (West Chester University) and Co-chair Ashley Rowe (West Chester University). Their leadership and enthusiasm, along with the conference committee's efforts, provided the structure for a successful and memorable spring conference.

PAC-TE wishes to thank all the presenters and presidors who gave of their time and wisdom. If anyone is interested in helping plan for a future conference, send an email to joel@pac-te.org.

Many of the resources shared at the conference are available on our website under Events --> Spring Conference Resources. Dr. Burn's slides proved too hefty for sharing there, but those who attended were able to get the major emphases of her address.

As always, it was a privilege to spend the day with so many colleagues. We hope to see you in the fall, at the Teacher Education Assembly (TEA) in Harrisburg October 23-25.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Keep Abreast of Current State Efforts

April 9, 2024, was a historic day at the Pennsylvania State Capitol. For the first time, PAC-TE's Teacher Education Day was a collaborative effort with PEDC and PaCASE. The Pennsylvania Educational Diversity Consortium and the Pennsylvania Council of Administrators of Special Education joined with PAC-TE to personally reach as many elected representatives as possible. Over 40 students joined the effort and were able to have an experience they will never forget.

Highlights:

1. 85 individuals attended the Advocacy Day.
2. Highlighting the shortage of teachers in Pennsylvania, the major push was for fully funding the new Student Teacher stipend recently passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Shapiro. "The Student Teacher Stipend pilot

program has been extremely popular and has received bipartisan support in the General Assembly, which is an excellent step in the right direction,” said Tom Conway, President-Elect of PAC-TE. “However, it is imperative that it be fully funded. One university alone could easily take up 40 percent of the allocation and thereby, leave many student teachers in need across the commonwealth left out. As a result, inherent inequities are being created from the start.”

3. PEDC Co-Director Dr. Donna-Marie Cole-Malott (a PAC-TE member) said, “This school year alone, 8,800 teaching positions went unfilled or were filled on a temporary basis. And our Black and brown communities are experiencing the brunt of this shortage. More than half of all teacher vacancies are in districts where at least 80 percent of students are people of color. We cannot provide our students, no matter their background, the best education possible if we do not make this a priority and address our educator workforce crisis.” To begin to reverse this troubling trend, PEDC was calling for lawmakers to pass Governor Shapiro’s budget proposal for a \$10 million investment in the Talent Recruitment Account, which can fund apprenticeship, CTE, and dual enrollment opportunities with school districts, and educator preparation providers known as “Grow Your Own” Programs. These programs empower aspiring educators to earn their degrees and rebuild a teacher pipeline.
4. “PaCASE is partnering with PAC-TE and PEDC to collectively emphasize the need to prioritize and fund programs outlined in Governor Shapiro’s budget to attract, prepare, and retain educators across the Commonwealth,” said Ann Marie Lucas, PaCASE President. “Pennsylvania is in a unique position to address the educator shortage, especially as it relates to special education, by providing effective and responsible financial and professional support for more potential and current educators. We encourage all legislators to support Governor Shapiro's proposed 2024-25 fiscal year budget, which includes \$1,436,815,000 for Special Education appropriations.”
5. In addition to those comments, the press conference in the Rotunda included comments from State Senator Vincent Hughes (D, Philadelphia/Montgomery County), State Representative Jason Ortitay (R, Allegheny/Washington County), Chief Talent Officer at PDE Ray Fields, Temple University Secondary Education Social Studies major Luis Sanchez Velasco, Harrisburg School District 11th Grader Marilynn Lalave, and Fall 2024 Student Teacher from Commonwealth University Jaclyn Ohl, who said, “As a student teacher, our students are

counting on us to give them the best education they can get. Having access to Student Teacher Stipends would take the burden off of student teachers so that we can give these students the best of us. The students of Pennsylvania deserve the best education we can offer and with the help of Student Teacher Stipend funding, we are one more step closer to giving them that.”

We also encourage you to read and consider Governor Shapiro's **[Blueprint for Higher Education](#)** (Click the link for details). The Governor has outlined what he calls "Three Pillars", any and all of which will impact our work: Creating A New System to Address Pennsylvania’s Needs, Increasing Access & Affordability, and Increasing Transparency & Improving Outcomes.



President's Corner

One of the great things about working in education is the chance to reflect on our work that occurs each spring. For me, as I come to the end of my term as president, I also have the chance to reflect on the changes affecting PAC-TE. The biggest change I have seen over the last twenty years or so is the increasing influence of PAC-TE with policy makers and specifically with PDE. This influence largely started with a deliberate decision both by the PAC-TE board and by PDE leadership that we could accomplish more through collaboration than confrontation. This occurred on a personal level with little things like having lunch with PDE leadership after State Board of Education meetings and collaboratively planning our spring conferences together, to bigger things like PDE purposefully hiring a leader who comes from higher education. It has also been driven by two external challenges: the threat that covid could derail a year or more of teacher certification and the growing teacher shortage. These challenges helped emphasize our common purpose in preparing future educators.

Yet the same forces that have led to collaboration will also lead to new challenges. As teacher shortages grow there will be more and more calls for alternative paths to certification. Change is hard and so our challenge will be finding ways to embrace innovations that change how we do our work, while still upholding our fundamental values. Ideally the solutions will be win-win in nature such as school-university partnerships advocated by Rebecca Burns at the Spring Conference. These types of solutions hold the potential to both increase the number of students in our programs and the quality of their preparation. But not all solutions will be win-win and sometimes it will be hard to know the right thing to do.

As I consider these trends, the one thing I am certain of is that PAC-TE should be at the center of making these decisions. I believe in the mission of PAC-TE and even more I believe in the people of PAC-TE. We have unique expertise in what it takes to help people become educators. I am grateful to so many friends and colleagues who I have gotten to know through PAC-TE and I am excited to see the next chapter of teacher education in Pennsylvania and the central role PAC-TE will play. Best wishes to our incoming president Tom Conway and the entire leadership team as they lead us in this work!

Annual PAC-TE Membership Year Ends June 30--It's Time to Renew for Next Year

Institutional members and others who may have some remaining dollars in budgets that are about to close out for the year should take advantage of this opportunity to renew your annual PAC-TE memberships. Membership in PAC-TE is from July 1 - June 30. Institutions will receive an invoice if they have not already renewed. Individuals not covered by an institution's dues are welcome to renew at this time as well. Go to www.pac-te.org and click on the Membership tab to find the renewal pages.



**Renew Your Membership Today.
Help PAC-TE make a difference in
your profession.**

Association Updates



PAC-TE is pleased to announce and celebrate the awarding of a doctorate to both of our Graduate Student Leaders, Samantha Weiss (left, of West Chester University) and Kim Kneller (right, of Kutztown University). Congratulations, Dr. Kneller and Dr. Weiss!

If you know a graduate program student who might enjoy and benefit from serving PAC-TE on the Graduate Student Leadership Team, view **this video** now.



Fall Conference Plans in Full Swing

Make plans now to attend PAC-TE's Teacher Education Assembly (TEA) at the Best Western Premier The Central Hotel & Conference Center, in Harrisburg on October 23, 24, & 25.

Thanks to all those who have submitted proposals for fabulous break-out sessions. We received many more this year than last, so we are hoping that translates to a great conference with many choices for you to select from. If you have submitted a proposal, you can expect to hear from a conference committee member by the end of May.

Early-bird Registration is **available now**. Hotel rooms are ready for booking, too. The block is currently operational and guests can call or book online. Call the hotel directly at 717-561-2800 or book using the code below.

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.39125.html?groupId=V52FR5N6

NOTE: If guests book through a third party site or

through Best Western International, the group rate will not be accessible and the rooms cannot be transferred to your block.

Professional Development Opportunities

1. PAC-TE now has a virtual coffee hour! Our first one was held Friday, April 19 and attracted a perfect number of attendees to kick it off. Future Coffee Hours are under consideration, with ideas for topic considerations and facilitators being accepted. If you think you might enjoy connecting virtually with education peers from around the state for a short and encouraging chat once in awhile, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Samantha Weiss at sweiss2@wcupa.edu.
2. The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) Seeks Members for its 2024/2025 Class. You will engage in a nine-month program with people from across the education spectrum – advocates, policymakers, leaders from higher education, K-12, and service and membership organizations. You will meet, learn, and work with colleagues from other states, PA legislators, Washington D.C. policy leaders, and many more. Working on a small team of Fellows with similar policy interests, you will research and craft a new policy proposal that you will share with members of the General Assembly. Look for the online application and 2024-2025 schedule on **this site** beginning March 31. Tuition will be \$2350 for the year with an additional option for 90 hours of Act 45 credit via a three-credit course through Shippensburg University. Information about the 2024/2025 EPLC class can be found at their website: eplc.org.

Important Dates to Remember

Now - June 30 Renew your PAC-TE membership
October 23- 25 PAC-TE Teacher Education Assembly 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

joel@pac-te.org

· 717-516-8893 ·

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

FOLLOW US



Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators | 17 Firebox Ct., STEWARTSTOWN,
PA 17363

[Unsubscribe joel@pac-te.org](mailto:joel@pac-te.org)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by joel@pac-te.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!