



Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators

July 2024 Update

This month:

Professional Achievement Awards
Teacher Educator of the Year
State Budget News

PAC-TE seeks to honor its members and others in the education community each year through several awards. Do you know anyone who has been a recipient? Have you attended our Awards Banquet at a fall conference? We believe that we are surrounded by amazing educators who deserve recognition for their efforts, sacrifice, perseverance, fearlessness, and the belief that we can do better.

David Bly, a former Minnesota educator for 30 years who also served as a former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, said, "**Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted**". He adds, "I've come to realize that the success of the individual and community are closely intertwined. When you connect people to resources and opportunities, there are better outcomes for the individuals and the community. In the words of the late U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone, 'We all do better when we all do better.'"

Part of PAC-TE's vision is to be the leading voice in

advancing exemplary professional educator preparation, and one way we do that is by recognizing the success of our members through awards.

Our top four (4) professional awards are:

Outstanding Dissertation Award

Distinguished Research Award

Exemplary Service/Partnership Award

Teacher Educator of the Year Award

These awards rely on your nominations of colleagues or self-nominations. This month we are encouraging you to nominate individuals worthy of PAC-TE's awards, or nominate yourself. Read below for more information.

Nominate Someone for Professional Achievement Awards

PAC-TE offers three Professional Achievement Awards to its members:

- Outstanding Dissertation Award
- Distinguished Research Award
- Exemplary Service/Partnership Award

Surely you know someone, even yourself, who deserves some recognition for their excellent work in one or more of these areas! To be considered, application materials must be received by September 30, 2024.

Award recipients will be honored at the Fall TEA Awards Dinner.

Recipients will receive a one-year complimentary PAC-TE membership and the opportunity to present at the Fall TEA.

Please submit application materials according to the general instructions and the specific instructions for each award, found at "**Awards Given By PAC-TE**" on our website.

Please Nominate a Teacher Educator of the Year

Please suggest a worthy individual for the Teacher Educator of the Year Award. Go to the [**nominations page**](#) for more information. Nominations and required references are due September 30.

Call for PAC-TE Board Nominations -- Your chance to influence PAC-TE decisions and strategies

The Executive Director of PAC-TE is soliciting nominations for four seats on the Board of Directors. This is a wonderful opportunity to become involved in a position of leadership at the state level with colleagues from across Pennsylvania who are engaged in educator preparation. PAC-TE members may make nominations of others (with their consent), or they may self-nominate.

The following seats on the Board of Directors will be filled by election in the Fall of 2024. The terms for all four seats are three years and run from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028.

- One seat for a representative of a **Private** institution of higher education in Pennsylvania engaged in educator preparation. The current seat holder, Veronica Ent, is eligible for re-election.
- One seat for a representative of a **Public** institution of higher education in Pennsylvania engaged in educator preparation. Our association bylaws stipulate that at least one of three public seats must be held by a representative from a PASSHE institution, and a representative from a state-related institution (Pitt, Penn State, Temple, or Lincoln) must hold one. Since there is currently one Director from a PASSHE institution and one Director from a state-related institution, the nominee can be from either type of public institution. Current Director Danielle Bowers is up for re-election.
- Two seats for an **At-Large** representative. Candidates may come from any institution of higher education in Pennsylvania engaged in educator preparation. Current Director Rachael Stevens is up for re-election. Current Director Stephanie Gardner is not eligible for re-election as she is in the final year of her two-term limit and must sit out for at least one year before being re-elected to the Board.
- No officers are being elected this year. The next chance to nominate an officer is in the fall of 2025.

Please email John Ward, PAC-TE Past President and Chair of the Nominations Committee, at john.ward@live.kutztown.edu with any questions about the positions on the ballot. Nominations and candidate information/photos must be received by September 30, 2024.

State Budget Updates:

By now most of you know that Governor Shapiro signed a new state budget that increases the funding for the Student Teacher Stipend by an additional \$20 million. PAC-TE and our partner associations across the Commonwealth advocated for an increase,

and while this budget doesn't go as far as we'd hoped, it is a step in that direction. Over the coming year, our Government Relations Committee (GRC) will want to hear from you about the situation at your institution--the number of your student teachers and cooperating teachers who received stipends and related challenges that arise.

Take a moment to read a letter written by **Amber Bloom, University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg**. She and others, like those who have spoken at the State Capitol and in their local press, have demonstrated their brave and articulate advocacy--a reminder that PAC-TE and the students in our programs are best suited to educate the public and members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly about the challenges we face. We need more of this advocacy.

The new budget does not include any money for Grow Your Own teacher preparation programs. Expect some of our partner associations to regroup and push for this in next year's budget.

Dates to Keep in Mind

Now – September 30 – nominations for Professional Achievement Awards
Now – September 30 – nominations for board positions
Now – September 30 – Teacher Educator of the Year Nominations
Now – September 30 – Early Bird Registration for TEA
October 23– 25 PAC-TE Teacher Education Assembly (in person), at Best Western Premier the Central Hotel & Conference Center, Harrisburg

Visit your PAC-TE website at www.pac-te.org

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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