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## *A Message from the President*

*Dr. Ashley Simpson, President  
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### **It's All Worth It . . .**

Whenever I submit my newsletter articles I try to stick to one of the four categories; the new member welcome, advocacy in the field, teacher preparation and appreciation, and community college benefits. To some, this is not a bad plan and to others you are probably thinking this is a criteria that I have to follow. However, truth is both groups are correct to some degree. I don't stick to these four categories because I have to, I do it because there is a passion for me within each category while I get the opportunity to align my writings with the heart of NACCTEP's mission and vision.

However, today I'm going to do something different, I'm going to add a category on students and student appreciation. Why? Well that's simple...because our careers and lives are centered around our students. I'm sure I am not the only person that spends day and night advocating, teaching, and designing around students and their needs. But the truth is how many of our students understand what we do and why we do it? I'm sure most of us can say, "Less than 10%" which is ok with me because I don't do what I do for understanding...I do it for change. We do know, however, that our students understand the power of praise and appreciation. In fact, our students would prefer that any day over all our other job responsibilities. They would love for us to recognize their hard work and dedication to their education and the education of children. And, I will be the first to say that sometimes I forget to recognize my students because I am so fixated on the "bigger picture." But not today! Since there isn't a "Student Appreciation Week/Month" I think it's time to show students we appreciate them and all of their hard work.



1 Thessalonians 5:11 states, "therefore encourage and build each other up, just as you are already doing." I try to live by this statement because it's important that I remember that my students are hard working adults that need to be lifted up to success. As community college administrators and instructors, we can't afford to forget that our students come to us with a goal **and** with their own lives. These two can sometimes conflict and cause students to feel discouraged and want to quit, which is where we come into play, we are here to recognize those conflicts and show students they can do whatever they set out to do. Proverbs 12:25 has taught me, "that anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad."

I will never underestimate what four-year universities and colleges do, but I will tell you that I love working at a community college because I have the opportunity to work with each of my students on a more personal level...I get to hear and see their anxiety and help them work their way to a good place. Community college students are unique not because of the negative stigma associated with community colleges, but because these students come to us with baggage that only we can unpack. With this I praise these students because they come with a, "take me as I am," attitude. They may start off afraid to ask for help but after one semester and a few great friends these students work hard to achieve and advocate for themselves and those around them. Each day, week, month, and semester I get to sit and listen to my students share their stories...and I will tell you the stories don't line up to their grades and achievements on campus. I know that seems like a strange statement but these students work hard to balance life, school, and so many other things that come their way...and they do it well. And, today I want to tell all

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students that “we see you,” we understand your plight and we appreciate you each day you come to class and work hard. And, trust me when I say, “When it’s all done...it will all be worth it.”



During the first week of October NACCTEP held its Fall executive board meeting in Washington, DC providing an opportunity for NACCTEP Student Representative Kimberly Griffin and Member-at-Large Dr. Cecelia Monto to visit with Legislative Assistant Lakeisha Steele of Representative Suzanne Bonamici’s (D-OR 1<sup>st</sup>) office.

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*If you have not already done so, please consider [joining](#) our partner organization AACTE.*

The National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs (NACCTEP) and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) have launched a partnership for 2018-2019 to foster collaboration among their memberships through the common goals of advocating for, advancing, and diversifying educator preparation programs.

This pilot partnership connects 4-year degree-granting institutions and community college educator preparation programs to grow and strengthen the teacher pipeline, bring diversity to the field, and advance the preparation of educators.

AACTE and NACCTEP welcome community colleges to apply for the partnership program. Institutions participating in this partnership have access to an array of AACTE and NACCTEP benefits including discounted rates for conferences and events, a subscription to the *Journal of Teacher Education*, and access to joint NACCTEP and AACTE programming at the AACTE Annual Meeting.

<https://www.aacte.org/membership/aacte-nacctep-partnership>