

## *A Message from the Executive Director*

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### **A PERSONAL INVITATION and a THANK YOU!**

Truth be told, I'm not even sure how many of you read through this newsletter. In my mind it's millions, but it may only be a few of you...I hope it's at least a few!!!! That said, if you haven't stopped to read through the newsletter in a while, I hope that you will take the time this week to catch up on the work that's been taking place within NACCTEP and especially within our educator preparation programs. We are doing some amazing work across the country and we should be proud of ourselves for the difference that we are making in our communities.

To that point, as you may know, NACCTEP has officially joined in partnership with AACTE as affiliate members and because of this partnership we've been able to expand our voice and highlight the wonderful ways in which we impact and diversify the teacher pipeline. Of course, I would love nothing more than to have your institution join AACTE as an institutional member; which also provides a subsidy to NACCTEP allowing us to continue our work of advocating for the profession and the wonderful work taking place within our programs. BUT IF YOU CAN'T join as a member this year, I would like to personally invite you to attend the [2019 Annual Conference in Louisville, KY](#). We need you in attendance so that you can begin working with your four-year partners, hearing about trends in education, and highlighting the work that your program is doing to meet the needs of our non-traditional students. If you can make it to this year's conference, I want to personally extend an invitation for you to meet with our NACCTEP team during the conference; we'll be hosting a special social event during the conference that will be reserved for community college participants, AACTE staff, and the four-year partners within your state. Click on the link above or copy this path into your browser <https://www.aacte.org/professional-development-and-events/annual-meeting> to get information about registration. I cannot express how important it is for our community college members to be present at this event. Now is the time to ACT AS ONE to impact our profession. Gone are the days of partisan bickering about programs, instead we shall focus on lifting each other up, encouraging the heart, and meeting the very diverse needs of our students so that every child has a highly-qualified, culturally responsive, caring, and day-one-ready classroom educator.



Finally, I want to say THANK YOU. As I write this article, we are just about one week away from one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. Sure, I love all the food, and even the football, but what I really love is that it's one of the few holidays where nothing is expected except to remember to say thanks! I am thankful for the NACCTEP Board and Ambassadors who spend time with me monthly to implement our strategic plan, I'm thankful for those of you who are tirelessly meeting the needs of your students without any recognition for the extra mile that you go to make sure that they succeed, I'm thankful for Rio Salado College who supports the work of the organization, and I'm thankful for YOU. That's right, we may have never met, but if you are like the hundreds of other community college faculty, staff, and students that I have met, then you are a gem; your empathy for the marginalized is palatable,

your love for your communities is evident, and your desire to see everyone succeed is awe-inspiring. DON'T GIVE UP. We see you. We know you are tired. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU!

I look forward to seeing you in Kentucky. Our time is now.



NACCTEP Executive Board 2018: *Front Row:* President Dr. Ashley Simpson, Student Representative Kimberly Griffin, Member-at-Large Dr. Cecelia Monto, Vice President Dr. Linda Gronberg-Quinn, Member-at-Large Meghan Grenda; *Back Row:* Executive Secretary Jennifer Gladis, Member-at-Large Dr. Frank Kline, Member-at-Large Dr. Jennifer Gresko, Secretary Megan Kaplinsky, Executive Director Kimberly Tobey.

*Ambassadors we need your voice and would love to hear about your school's achievements, innovations, and future plans for an Ambassador's Corner column in future newsletters. Please contact us at [nacctep@riosalado.edu](mailto:nacctep@riosalado.edu) with your ideas TODAY!*