The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and New Jersey City University share a history that goes back to July 1, 1954 when NCATE included New Jersey State Teachers College at Jersey City on its first annual list of accredited institutions.

Now, more than 50 years later, NCATE has become the premier accrediting agency for education professionals in the United States and includes the New Jersey City University College of Education among the 575 entities that it accredits.

“We are proud of our association with NCATE and the fact that our college has been continuously accredited for these five decades,” said Dr. Muriel Rand, dean of the NJCU College of Education. “We have maintained high quality programs for preparing teachers, administrators, and school personnel as the educational standards have evolved over the years. Responding to the NCATE guidelines and its national standards has helped us maintain that commitment to excellence.”

NCATE-accredited colleges of education produce more than two-thirds of the nation’s new teachers every year. Thirty-nine states have adopted or adapted NCATE standards for their own state accreditation systems.

The NCATE accreditation system is based upon periodic inspection visits. NCATE last visited and accredited NJCU in 2000. The next visit will take place in spring 2005.

Although only seven of the 21 teacher preparation institutions in New Jersey are currently nationally accredited, New Jersey recently adopted requirements that will require all teacher preparation programs to be nationally accredited by January 2009.