

Upcoming Assignments

Through March 13

NSEA District Elections

■ **What:** NSEA's annual round of elections to select from candidates seeking open seats on one of six NSEA District boards or on the NSEA Board of Directors.

■ **Details:** The online voting takes place through midnight March 13. For details, turn to Page 21.

April 18

NSEA-Retired Spring Conference

■ **What:** This annual gathering of the NSEA-Retired affiliate will feature Nebraska native and Olympic gold medal bobsledder Curt Tomasevicz, among other attractions.

■ **Details:** Held in Kearney on April 18, the event is detailed on Page 22.

April 19-20

NSEA Delegate Assembly

■ **What:** NSEA members have met annually since 1867 to set the Association path for the coming year. This year, the meeting is in Kearney.

■ **Details:** It is not too late to be elected as a delegate. See Page 17 for details!

Educator Preparation Standards Revised

Public Comment Period Open Through March

Educators now have an opportunity to comment on standards for teacher training proposed by the newly formed Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

The CAEP's Commission on Standards and Performance Reporting has released a draft of the proposed standards. Comments on will be accepted through March 29.

"These new standards are about improving results, particularly for P-12 learners. The nation has raised the bar for our students and for our teachers. Today's teachers must challenge and engage *all* learners. Now we must raise the bar for preparation programs to help the nation meet these ambitious goals," said CAEP President James G. Cibulka.

NSEA Director of Instructional Advocacy Jay Sears said the new standards will help better prepare teachers.

"The new standards are rigorous and should help prepare future educators for P-12 instruction to meet the 21st century world of work and college," said Sears.

The Commission was charged with developing – for all preparation provid-

ers – the next generation of accreditation standards based on evidence, continuous improvement, innovation, and clinical practice. The Commission was also charged with recommending transparent CAEP public accountability reporting with multiple measures, including those directly linked to achievement.

Cibulka told Education Week that the standards favor educational outcomes, and emphasize evidence to support effective practices. "That means being able to link measures on outcomes and impact back to the characteristics of the programs themselves and the nature of the candidates who were

admitted to the programs," he said.

Representatives of diverse and divergent views were invited to serve on the Commission to help shape the standards. The Commission reflects a partnership between educator preparation providers, policy makers and P-12 educators, signaling new demands for collaboration that CAEP expects.

CAEP was formed when the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) merged. It will be the sole U.S. accreditor for educator preparation.

To Comment

To review and comment on the proposed new standards for educator preparation, go to:

caepnet.org/commission/standards/

On the Cover:

What is the worth, the value of a quality education? How do you put a price on 12 or 16 years or more of learning. It's hard to quantify, but you'll find a collection of numbers that try to do just that, when you turn to

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