

STATE OF COLORADO



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

November 9, 2010

Dr. James G. Cibulka, President
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
2010 Massachusetts Ave. NW #500
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Dr. Cibulka:

The Colorado Department of Higher Education and the Colorado Department of Education would be pleased to join the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education's Alliance for Clinical Teacher Preparation. Colorado supports NCATE's initiative to dramatically change the approach for preparing teachers through clinically based preparation programs - especially those who will teach in high needs schools.

Colorado shares with NCATE the quest for high-quality teacher preparation. The recommendations of the NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation, Partnerships for Improved Student Learning, can transform teacher preparation to become more clinically based in partnership with P-12 schools and practitioners.

As a member of the Alliance for Clinical Teacher Preparation, Colorado Alliance members agree to develop a Memo of Understanding with NCATE which details the manner in which Colorado will work toward the following goals of the Alliance:

- Create and support collaborative partnerships among schools, districts, and a pluralism of teacher preparation providers in Colorado, which will prepare teachers in a clinically based programs.
- Expect multiple measures of performance assessments for teacher preparation candidates and providers working in clinically based venues.
- Establish stronger state policies and incentives to prepare teachers in clinically-based settings.
- Develop a scaled-up plan to expand from a limited number of clinical teacher preparation partnerships to a statewide system of clinical teacher preparation as a means for improving student learning - especially in high-needs schools.
- Share best-practices models for clinically-based teacher preparation with the Alliance and the education community at large.

- Establish a research and development agenda to determine the effectiveness of the program on student outcomes.

We are proud that Colorado will be among the first members of the NCATE Alliance for Clinical Teacher Preparation and we look forward to working with other states to expand this important initiative which will revolutionize and improve teacher preparation.

Sincerely,



Dwight D. Jones
Commissioner of Education
Colorado Department of Education



D. Rico Munn
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Higher
Education