

Report of the TESAC Committee
By Travis Coe, Crete Education Association, Chair

The Teacher Education and School Accreditation Committee (TESAC) represents NSEA members on the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE). NCTE is an advisory committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education, and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Diana Casey of Omaha is chair of standing committee "A" and is currently president-elect of NCTE. Members of NCTE will vote on the position this summer. Members of TESAC are representatives from all Nebraska State Board of Education districts across the state, come from various grade levels and content areas, and represent various positions and years of experience within school districts.

As active members of the NCTE, we have studied ways to strengthen the teacher education pathway to grow and advance the teaching profession while retaining high standards for teacher preparation programs. We have reviewed Educators Rising programs in many of our Nebraska high schools and studied effective Education Preparation Pathways that can diversify the teaching workforce and strengthen outcomes for all Nebraska's students. We have worked with our higher education and administrative partner organizations to collaborate on definitions of Educator Effectiveness required for ESSA. TESAC members have extensively reviewed basic skills competency requirements in Rule 23 to remove barriers for those entering the teaching profession by working with NDE and other stakeholders.

TESAC monitors and works for improvements in Educator Preparation programs, Standards of School Accreditation, and Standards for Educator Preparation in the State of Nebraska. The work of this committee is essential in advocating for quality education. Rules 20, 21, 23, 24 and 25 continue to be reviewed every year as needed.

Members of TESAC are divided into three standing committees on NCTE. These committees reviewed issues below. All committee members are involved in the rule revision process. The standing committees reviewed the following this past year:

- Rule 23 academic skills requirements for teacher certification.
- Rule 24 endorsements and guidelines for the Health Sciences, Science content area, Social Sciences; Agricultural Education, Business, Marketing, and Information Technology (BMIT); Family and Consumer Sciences; Information Technology, Skilled and Technical Sciences; Skilled Technical

Sciences-Skilled Specific; Basic Business; Horticulture Education; and Vocational special needs (removed from Rule 24).

- Rule 21 changes for Certification of Educators.

NSEA members on the NCTE will recommend approval or non-approval of 15 Educator Preparation Institution programs to the State Board of Education. This year, TESAC members reviewed accreditation reports and supporting evidence through an onsite and national CAEP review process at Doane University, York College, Wayne State College, and Bellevue University. NSEA members have served on the continuing visit to Bellevue University as it applies to become an Educator Preparation Program.

The Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) is the only federally recognized body for national accreditation of teacher preparation programs. Two new representatives from TESAC were trained in the CAEP process and standards and in addition to other long-time representatives, our members will continue their service on accreditation teams at Nebraska institutions.