Dear Colleagues:

The U.S. Department of Education will soon release draft regulations for Title II and Title IV of the Higher Education Act for public comment. These federal regulations could have a significant negative impact on your teacher preparation programs.

The public comment period marks the next step after members of a federal negotiated rulemaking panel cited too many concerns to agree to the Department's original proposed regulations this spring. AACTE anticipates the soon-to-be released draft regulations will be similar to that proposal. AACTE urges all of our members to become familiar with the regulations put forth this spring, know the specific impact they could have on your programs, talk with your presidents and provosts to educate them about the impending release, and establish a plan to have your voice heard once the official proposal is known. Just a few of the ways the regulations could impact your programs are to:

- Force your state to rate all programs within your school, college or department of education, using quality indicators, which have not been deemed either valid or reliable;
- Require you to report on the quality of your program using data that most institutions and states do not yet have the capacity to collect;
- Tie program ratings to students' eligibility for federal financial aid through the TEACH Grants; and
- Set a precedent for tying program ratings to other forms of federal financial aid.

A summary of the negotiated rulemaking process and concerns with the initial proposal can be found in AACTE's April 2012 Advisor. Along with members of the Higher Education Task Force on Teacher Preparation*, we have also assembled background resources, linked below, to help inform you on these issues.

The Department could release its draft regulations for public comment in as soon as a matter of weeks. AACTE has continued to meet with officials at the Department, and thus far, they appear to be resolute in maintaining elements of the original proposal.

The profession needs a powerful response from you and your peers when the comment period opens. Start preparing now, and stay tuned for updates from AACTE. If you have questions, please contact AACTE Government Relations Manager Jon Gentile at jgentile@aacte.org. We look forward to supporting you throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Sharon P. Robinson, Ed.D.
President and CEO
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

- Federal Teacher Preparation Issues and Concerns
- Principles for Evaluating Teacher Preparation Programs

*Higher Education Task Force on Teacher Preparation is a group of representatives from the Department of Education and organizations representing colleges and universities that prepare teachers.

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE).