

NCTAF News

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Summer/2008

Welcome to the new "**NCTAF News**"! On a quarterly basis, we will be updating you on NCTAF's most recent and exciting work, including initiatives with our states and our partners.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
**Teaching and
America's
Future**

For more than a decade, NCTAF has been a leading voice on what matters most for student learning: quality teaching in schools organized for success. NCTAF engages policymakers and education leaders in a four-part agenda: Transform schools into genuine learning organizations; Close the gap between teacher preparation and professional practice; Engage teachers in careers that reward professional collaboration and expertise; and Develop authentic teaching standards and learning assessments.

Our newsletter is organized around NCTAF's four action strategies that we use to promote our agenda: **Analysis**, **Advocacy**, **Action** and **Alliances**.

ANALYSIS: To examine and synthesize varying data points and emerging trends in the development of pertinent policy positions.

Texas Instruments STEM Roundtable

On March 2, 2008, in partnership with **Texas Instruments**, NCTAF convened a one-day roundtable in Dallas at **TI's T3 Conference** focusing on ensuring that new STEM teachers are well prepared for 21st century teaching. NCTAF Director for Reinventing Schools for the 21st Century, **Kathleen Fulton**, led a group of forward-thinking leaders in exploring and identifying the most effective ways to prepare STEM teachers. Attendees discussed the urgency of a redesign of STEM teacher preparation to meet the learning needs for a new generation of students.

To learn more, click [here](#).

NCTAF/National Science Foundation Partnership

With support from the **National Science Foundation**, NCTAF recently convened a distinguished group of educators at a Wingspread retreat (Racine, WI) to discuss how to improve the retention of math and science teachers. Attendees examined practices and developed action strategies and research agendas. Based on the discussion and guidance from this meeting, NCTAF is developing research proposals and activities to assure new STEM teachers are well prepared and supported.



To learn more, click [here](#).

ADVOCACY: Policy forums, national summits and policy briefs that inform and build momentum around 21st century teaching.

NCTAF President's Commentary Appears in Education Week

The March 26, 2008 issue of **Education Week** featured a full-page commentary by NCTAF President **Tom Carroll** on an educational crisis in the United States. Citing the recent [Pew Center on the States' study](#), which found that the United States has the



largest per-capita prison population in the world, Carroll said, "To be tough on crime, be strong on education. State leaders would be much farther ahead if they worried less about how many prison beds they have and concentrated instead on improving the schools and teachers they provide." Carroll also reported that the average annual state expenditure on a prisoner is \$23,876, in contrast to \$8,701 per year on a K-12 student.

To read the article, click [here](#).

MetLife "Future of Teaching" Forums

In May, NCTAF convened in Atlanta and Denver, the first two national Forums on the future of teaching.

In partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting, the Atlanta Forum featured thought-provoking

discussions on teacher compensation, teacher pipeline issues, retention and collaboration models. To address these issues, NCTAF brought together some of the most cutting-edge state leaders on teaching quality. Atlanta panelists included **Andrew Broy**, Assoc. State Superintendent; **Ann Cramer**, Director Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs, IBM; **Patricia Paterson**, Executive Director, P-16 Office of the University System of Georgia; **Jennifer Ripper Buck**, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Student Achievement; **Wheda Acolatse**, Teacher, Alonzo F. Herndon Elementary; **Beverly Hall**, Superintendent, Atlanta Public Schools; **Carolyn Hall**, Principal, Kimberly Elementary; **Bill Haskin**, Teacher, Hahira Middle School; And **Steve Smith**, Superintendent, Lowndes County Schools.



The Denver Forum, held at Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting, featured a discussion focused on closing the student achievement gap and preparing and supporting teachers to meet this challenge. Panelists included **Matt Gianneschi**, Senior Education Adviser to Governor Bill Ritter Jr.; **Dwight Jones**, Colorado Commissioner of Education; **Lynn K. Rhodes**, Dean of the School of Education and Human Development, University Colorado Denver; **Tammy Clementi-Watson**, Interim Superintendent, Aguilar Reorganized District 6; **Tara Dotter**, Teacher, Aguilar Elementary School; **Chrisanne LaHue**, Instructional Coach, Bruce Randolph

School; and **Kristin Waters**, Principal, Bruce Randolph Middle School.

Watch for additional NCTAF Forums this Fall!

To view the forums, [click here](#).

ACTION: Demonstration sites to develop and refine teaching quality and school improvement initiatives.

NCTAF/KnowledgeWorks: Wingspread Conference

In February, NCTAF convened five of its state partners (Hawaii, Georgia, New Jersey, South Carolina and West Virginia) for an intensive, (and snowy!) retreat where NCTAF helped stimulate and guide state thinking about how to transform education and respond to the demands of the knowledge era. State teams were challenged to redefine the education system and the teaching profession for the 21st century. Using the [KnowledgeWorks Map of Future Forces Affecting Education](#), NCTAF and KnowledgeWorks staff helped states identify challenges in education. The Map forecasts forces that will influence public education over the next decade. By using the Map as a catalyst for conversation, state education leaders began to build a common framework for reshaping teacher preparation and transforming schools into genuine learning organizations. Following the conference, teams returned home, having developed clearly articulated goals, five-year visions and three-year plans that respond to the rapidly changing education context outlined in the map. States are now working with NCTAF and KnowledgeWorks Foundation staff to develop funding proposals that will enable them to make these goals a reality.

To learn more about the NCTAF/KnowledgeWorks partnership, click [here](#).

NCTAF/Georgia State University Induction Project Sponsored by Wachovia Foundation

Building Resources: Induction and Development for Georgia Educators (BRIDGE) is a peer-reviewed, interactive mentoring site that allows participants to find lessons, articles and web resources created by teachers as they engage in continuous development of their knowledge and skills. The site is part of the three-year **NCTAF/Georgia State University Induction Project**, sponsored by the **Wachovia Foundation**. The BRIDGE uses the [Framework for Accomplished Teaching](#),

which led to curriculum changes in Georgia. The framework is based on current research and redefines and describes the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to educate students successfully. Most recently, the BRIDGE was featured in the Society for Information Technology in Teacher Education conference in Las Vegas. The site currently has 2,952 users.

To learn more, click [here](#).

ALLIANCES: Partnering with states, school districts and national leadership groups to mobilize support for improved teaching quality.

NCTAF/Pearson Education

NCTAF is partnering with **Pearson Education** to spotlight school districts that have created a culture of collaboration to improve teacher effectiveness and student learning. Three school districts will be recognized at the 2008 NCTAF Symposium, in Washington, DC. Awardees will explain how this learning team model has yielded positive results in improved teacher quality and student achievement. NCTAF is always looking to showcase schools that are organized for success! If you wish to learn more, contact Hanna Doerr at hdoerr@nctaf.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **July 10-12, 2008: 2008 NCTAF Symposium**
...featuring a great line-up of education thought-leaders who will address the theme, "Building a 21st Century Education System." Among the speakers are the Honorable **Richard Riley**; the Honorable **George Miller** (D-CA); **Monica Martinez** of KnowledgeWorks Foundation; and many more! Click [here](#) to see the full agenda, and [register](#) today!

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