

Dean's Comment Regarding NCTQ *Teacher Prep Review* Report June 2013

On June 18, 2013 the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) released its report titled *Teacher Prep Review* rating teacher preparation programs nationwide. We are, of course, disappointed with their ratings of our College of Education teacher preparation programs.

The NCTQ ratings are particularly surprising in light of the fact that all our teacher preparation programs in the College of Education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa meet or exceed the national standards set by our accrediting body, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the professional associations in the various subject areas in which we prepare teachers. NCATE is recognized as a national accrediting organization by the US Department of Education.

NCTQ's new report also contrasts with U.S. News & World Report rankings of Graduate Schools of Education earlier this year. The College of Education ranked 65th in the nation among 231 ranked schools. In addition, in NCTQ's 2011 review of Student Teaching in the United States, the Elementary and Early Childhood Education program in our College was identified as one of ten model programs nationally. There is clearly a difference in consistency, perspective and perception of what counts as quality.

Even more surprising, last week NCTQ requested permission to post a syllabus from our undergraduate secondary teacher preparation program on their website as exemplary. The request stated, "We identified your 'secondary methods' course as having exemplary qualities. We are particularly interested and impressed because (the courses) clearly specify formal evaluations as part of the methods course/practicum experience. Additionally, the syllabi are written in a clear and concise manner that deserve to be recognized. For that reason, we are writing to ask your permission to post it as a model for other programs to emulate." (The posting can be found at <http://www.nctq.org/teacherPrep/resources/secondary/pedagogy.jsp>.) However, in the published report, the secondary program received a consumer warning.

At this time, we are preparing for our national accreditation review by NCATE, which will take place in April 2014. NCATE will examine our practices and evidence of student learning outcomes that prepare our graduates to be highly effective teachers. The in-depth review includes an thorough examination of our detailed online submission and an onsite visit from a professional accreditation team. In contrast, the NCTQ report drew conclusions solely from print materials (e.g., syllabi, handbooks) used for other purposes in our college, and their findings weren't verified with our faculty this time, as they were three years ago.

We will review the NCTQ report with our ongoing commitment to improve our programs so that our graduates are well prepared to teach all students in Hawaii. We will use the relevant recommendations, especially as they pertain to nationally recognized best practices and policies by the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE).

The Chamberlin Family Foundation provided funding to respond to NCTQ's request for numerous documents, ensuring that no taxpayer money was used to provide information for the review.

Donald B. Young, Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa