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Letter from the President

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Message From the President

As President of the New York Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, I am keenly aware of all of the opportunities our professional organization offers to its members. Institutional memberships in NYACTE offer us opportunities to become connected to our national organization, the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, and to stay informed about the advocacy and policy efforts of AACTE on behalf of educator preparation programs nationally. In June of this year, NYACTE hosted a convening of deans and program directors in New York to discuss pressing issues in educator preparation within our own state. One outcome of that convening was the creation of a listserv for deans and program directors for us to communicate with each other around educator preparation advocacy, policies, laws, and regulations in New York. This new resource available to NYACTE members provides a means for us to be in continuous conversation with our colleagues about topics of shared concern. We also come together in October of each year at our annual conference organized with our colleagues in the New York Association of Teacher Educators (NYSATE) to network and learn with and from each other in person. I can say with all sincerity that this is one of the best conferences I have ever attended, and I eagerly look forward to returning each year.

Another valuable resource for NYACTE members is this journal, *Excelsior: Leadership in Teaching and Learning*. Now available online with two editions per year, *Excelsior* is a peer-reviewed and fully open-access journal that publishes scholarship related to the preparation and professional development of educators. The current issue includes research-based articles on faculty perspectives on social justice in teacher education; the application of research findings on effective instructional strategies in a middle school science classroom; the recent focus on standards for social and emotional learning; and preservice teachers' understanding of standards-based literacy curricula—all subjects sure to provoke lively discussion among readers. Over the past year, the editors of *Excelsior*, Christine Ashby and Julia White of Syracuse University, have worked tirelessly to make a range of improvements to the journal, and I thank them and commend them for their work. As NYACTE members, we can all be extremely proud of the contribution of this publication to our field.

I am extremely honored to have been elected to serve as President of NYACTE, and I truly want to serve each of *you*. I urge each of you to let me and our board members know how NYACTE might better serve your institutions through any and all of the means I described above as well as contacting me directly via email with any suggestions or concerns. If you are not currently a member of the deans and directors listserv, please email me so that I may add you to the group. I hope that you will also plan to attend our annual conference and consider submitting proposals in future years to share your work with a statewide audience. I hope that you will not only read, discuss, and disseminate the articles in the *Excelsior* but that you will also submit manuscripts for review and publication. Above all, I encourage you to become involved in our organization in whatever ways are most meaningful to you. NYACTE will be stronger when each of your voices are included in the ongoing conversation around educator preparation in our state and nation, and I look forward to hearing from you.

With much appreciation,

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