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Armstrong Atlantic State University

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Patricia Wachholz

Armstrong's College of Education Receives Continued Accreditation

(November 23, 2010) Armstrong Atlantic State University's [College of Education](#) has received continued accreditation under performance-oriented standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the organization responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education. The accreditation is effective through spring 2017.

The NCATE accreditation is a testament to Armstrong's College of Education continued commitment to producing quality teachers for our nation's schools. Many of Armstrong's education graduates become teachers in the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools System or other districts in the region and have emerged as teachers of the year in their districts or schools. The college currently offers bachelor's- and master's-level degree programs as well as certificate programs.

Studies show that teacher quality is the most important factor in pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade student achievement. Professional accreditation by NCATE is one way to ensure that schools of education are graduating well-qualified teachers ready for today's classrooms.

NCATE-accredited schools must meet rigorous standards set by the profession and members of the public. Teacher candidates must have in-depth knowledge of the subject matter that they plan to teach as well as the skills necessary to convey it so that students learn. The college or university must carefully assess this knowledge and skill to determine that candidates may graduate. The institution must have partnerships with P-12 schools that enable candidates to develop the skills necessary to help students learn. Candidates must be prepared to understand and work with diverse student populations. College and university faculty must model effective teaching practices. And the school, college, or department of education must have the resources, including information technology resources, necessary to prepare candidates to meet new standards.

NCATE currently accredits 623 institutions which produce two-thirds of the nation's new teacher graduates each year. Ninety-nine additional institutions are candidates or pre-candidates for accreditation.

"If there is one thing that we know from years of research, it is that in terms of student learning, what teachers know and do is the single most important variable over which educators have control," said Patricia Wachholz, Armstrong dean of the College of Education. "It is extremely satisfying that Armstrong's professional education unit has met very high national standards. We are very proud of our faculty and our school district partners whose collaboration in preparing teachers for Georgia's schools have made this achievement possible."

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes NCATE as a specialized accrediting body for schools, colleges, and departments of education. NCATE is composed of more than 30 professional and policymaker organizations. More information about NCATE is available at www.ncate.org.



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