As educators and educational leaders, you know how state and national legislation impacts the work we do. That's why I want to bring you this update on some of what has been happening in these arenas during the past month.

As incoming president of Georgia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (GACTE), I recently had the opportunity to participate in the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) State Leaders Institute and Day on Capitol Hill events. For two days, I gathered with other state AACTE chapter leaders to develop and refine state action plans, learn about and discuss federal and proposed legislation and receive an update on CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) accreditation. On the final day, I met with Rep. Rick Allen (GA 12th District, including Statesboro) and staffers from Allen's office as well as from the offices of Sen. Johnny Isakson and Sen. David Purdue and Rep. Buddy Carter (GA 1st District, including Savannah).

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was reintroduced as the Student Success Act in the House of Representative and the Every Child Achieves Act in the Senate. Both House and Senate versions prioritize strong clinical preparation of teachers and measurement of teacher effectiveness. Troubling in the House bill is the elimination of the Teacher Quality Partnership Grants in the Higher Education Act and inclusion of the GREAT Act, allowing funds to be used to create new teacher preparation academies outside the requirements of higher education programs. Click here to continue reading.

**COE Welcomes Graduate Ambassadors**

COE's Graduate Academic Services Center (GASC) recently announced its 2015-16 Graduate Ambassadors, graduate students who will serve in a number of different roles within their programs and GASC.

"We conceived the program as a way for graduate students to connect with each other and with prospective students," said GASC Advisor Benjamin Wentworth. "We have 12 graduate students representing six different master's, specialist's and doctoral programs. I was really pleased with the response to our first call for ambassadors," he continued.

In addition to being available to other graduate students, ambassadors will assist GASC with recruiting and other graduate school events. "We really see our ambassadors as helping prospective students find their place in the Eagle Nation," Wentworth added.
2015-2016 Graduate Ambassadors

Morgan Bland, Counselor Education; Laniea Golden, Counselor Education; Adam Winkler, Curriculum Studies; Samantha Awala, Curriculum Studies; Julie Lumpkin, Curriculum Studies; John LeMay, Educational Leadership; Tamela Evans, Educational Leadership; Simone Stewart, Higher Education Administration; Nancy Floyd, Higher Education Administration; Felicia Forbes, Masters of Arts in Teaching; Tiffani Mihuta, School Psychology; Cynthia Jersey, Special Education

Click here for more information on GASC or the COE Graduate Ambassadors program.

Some of COE's 2015-2016 Graduate Ambassadors:

Simone Stewart

Nancy Floyd

Adam Winkler

Click here for more information on GASC or the COE Graduate Ambassadors program.
Upcoming Events

Southern Educator is published monthly by Georgia Southern College of Education.
Alumni: We want to stay in touch with you. Don't forget to fill out our alumni survey form.

Click here for our Survey.