



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

January 5, 2011

Robert A. Wiggins, President
Directors and Representatives of Teacher Education Programs
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309-4422

Dear Dr. Wiggins:

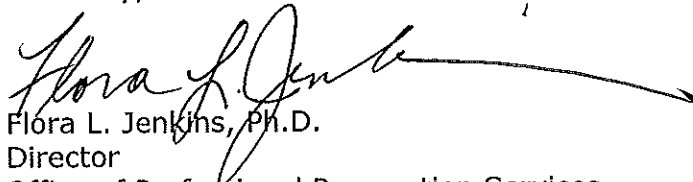
Thank you for sharing DARTEP's concerns about the importance of bringing K-12 and post-secondary representatives together to help the state improve teacher quality. The State Board of Education (SBE) remains committed to improving teacher quality and included a focus on the "Excellent Educator Quality Continuum" as one of its 2010-11 priorities. This continuum includes a number of initiatives that impact the K-16 system.

The SBE decision to fold the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT) was a result of the SBE's shift from using standing advisory commissions and task forces to using ad hoc task forces to solicit input and guidance from the K-16 field. That decision also recognized the limited resources at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to continue to support standing commissions and task forces.

As we continue to work on initiatives to improve teacher quality, including the recommendations of the Teacher Preparation Policy Study Group, ad hoc task forces will be formed. In accordance with the SBE policy, the role of these task forces will be advisory, providing input and guidance on specific issues as needed. We certainly hope that previous members of the PSCT and current members of DARTEP will serve on those ad hoc task forces, as well as provide input during field reviews and at SBE meetings.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Flora L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Professional Preparation Services

cc: State Board of Education Members
Michael Flanagan
Sally Vaughn

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