

## “Tribal College Students Leave Conference Fired Up About The Teaching Profession”

The NEA Student Leadership Conference, which was held on June 25-28, 2007 in Valley Forge, PA, was a huge success for Haskell Indian Nations student members and their co-advisor. This conference offered several workshops that focused primarily on building leadership skills. This past summer, the NEA's Minority Community Outreach department sponsored those students and their advisor to attend the conference. Please see below, for you will view two quotes about Haskell's experience at their very first national conference.

*First, I appreciate the invitation that you extended to our School of Education at Haskell Indian Nations University to attend the NEA Student Leadership Conference in Philadelphia last summer. Being a relatively small school, it was definitely an opportunity that we would not otherwise have experienced. Our students were introduced to a variety of ideas, that we could incorporate in our KNEA-SP organization. The "Out Reach to Teach" experience was definitely rewarding, our students shared their unique experiences with their peers this fall. The breakout sessions provided a network of resources for them. This conference certainly increased their enthusiasm for the teaching profession. Thank you, Director of MCO, Cynthia Swann!*

*Sincerely,*

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*"Attending the NEA Student Leadership conference 2007 in Philadelphia was a valuable experience. I was able to network and learn new ideas for my local chapter. In September 2007 the Haskell Indian Nations University Chapter of Kansas NEA Student Program hosted a Technology Night. We were able to share with our peers how to cyber-lobby. This idea and many more ideas are being implemented into our local and state chapter. At the state level we were excited to encourage a "Out Reach To Teach" day in Kansas this year. I believe that exposing our University to the national level has helped our Native American Students guide our communities in a positive and educational direction. This conference has given me more confidence in being a leader. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity"*

*- Tiffany Stuart-Wisdom, Kansas NEA Student Program Haskell Indian Nations University Chapter, President*

# Slow Down, Get It Right

NEA also believes the committee's efforts to address the need for "multiple measures" to assess students and schools are inadequate. In [an earlier letter](#) responding to the draft of Title I, NEA told the lawmakers:

*"A child is more than a test score"*  
Reg Weaver



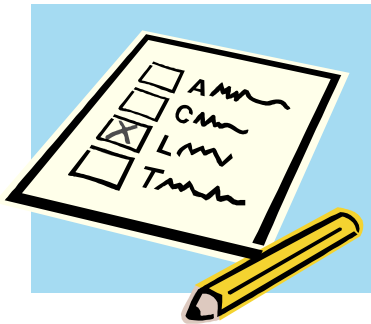
While we appreciate that the bill recognizes that a child is more than a test score through its provision of multiple measures in the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) system and are pleased that it includes several NEA priority concepts, we are concerned that in many cases it is still overly restrictive and prescriptive in the authority provided to states and school districts in designing their accountability plans and procedures, and still overly focused on measuring schools based on two test scores. We do not believe that an accountability system based primarily on two test scores is either an accurate or fair reflection of student learning or school quality, particularly when so many of the tests being utilized do not test knowledge or skills, but rather rote memorization.

## Start Taking Action Today!

- Letter Writing Campaigns (NCLB)- October-November
- Petition Drive-November-December
- In District Lobby-November-January
- Cyber-Lobby– Urge your representatives to correct NCLB!  
Cyber-Lobby members from both Republican and Democrats.  
Website link below:  
<http://www.nea.org/lac/highered/index.html>

**Let your voices be heard!**

## National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education



The NCATE works to improve how America prepares teachers by accrediting colleges and universities that meet national standards. Nearly 700 education programs-which prepare two-thirds of the nation's teachers- are accredited, including most state universities.

Accreditation is important because of accountability. Accreditation is the ultimate measure of quality in new teachers, like a professional seal of approval because it assures the public across the board-parents, business leaders, policy-makers-that candidates coming out of a particular institution have been prepared to teach using rigorous standards that have been designed by the profession.

*Accreditation is important because of accountability*

There are some programs that aren't accredited that adequately prepare new teachers, but research has found that accredited programs produce the best teachers. Hospitals don't hire Doctors unless they have graduated from accredited schools:someday the same might be said for teachers. By holding teacher education preparation programs to high standards, we are assuring the public that they can be confident in new teachers.

If you find out that your school is not NCATE accredited, there are several steps you can take.

1. Hold discussions with faculty on NCATE Accreditation.
2. Ask if your University can set up a partnership with local schools and provide you with the clinical experiences you need to be fully prepared to teach in a classroom environment.
3. Ask your state education agency, if it has information on additional programs or partnerships with NCATE accredited universities. (You may be able to take additional courses for credit)
4. Visit the NCATE web-site for a list of accredited schools.

[www.NCATE.org](http://www.NCATE.org)

*By: Boyce C. Williams, Ph.D.  
Vice President, NCATE*

## Join the NEA Student Program

### Benefits of Being a Student Member

- 10% Discount on all Textbooks from Barnes & Nobles Online (Free shipping and handling for all purchases) over \$25.00)
- Professional Development
- Networking
- Collective Action
- Teacher Toolkit Discounts
- 18% off Sprint bill Monthly
- 10% off Nextel bill Monthly
- Legal Services
- Publications-Tomorrows Teachers, NEA Today
- Scholarships-Tom Joyner & Jack Kinnaman
- Grants available to assist with community projects and recruitment
- Legislation and lobbying
- Praxis II Preparation
- **Two National Conferences**
  - ⇒ Student Leadership Conference (*Summer*)
  - ⇒ Connections Conference (*Fall*)
- State Conferences
- Campus Workshops
- Educational Resources: Lessons Plans, Activities, 21st Century Skills  
GEM: [thegateway.org](http://thegateway.org)

**See you next issue!**