

MEDIA RELEASE

NCEA PRESIDENT TELLS COLLEGES OF EDUCATION 'LEAD THE PARADE FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY'

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2007

CONTACT:

Jade Floyd, jfloyd@aacte.org

or 202.478.4596

Brandon Minow, bminow@cwassocs.com

or 202.393.7060

New York, N.Y. (February 22, 2007) The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education's (AACTE) is pleased to announce its Cohen Lecture speaker, Michael Hudson, president of the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA), national sponsor of *Just for the Kids*. Hudson will deliver this honorary lecture at AACTE's 59th Annual Meeting & Exhibits held at the Hilton New York on Sunday, February 25th from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the grand ballroom.

Mr. Hudson's remarks include a discussion surrounding the teacher education community which he claims, "Is at a critical crossroad in terms of public and political support. Colleges of Education face a 'credibility gap' among education consumers and political leaders." Hudson offers five recommendations for Colleges of Education to close this credibility gap and gain the confidence of the American public and political leadership.

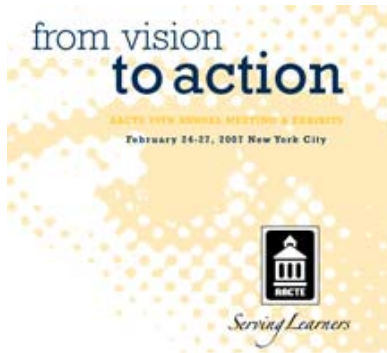
First, the teacher preparation schools should be leading the parade for school improvement. He emphasizes that the evidence shows without doubt that 'all children can learn to high standards,' and colleges should celebrate the successes of schools doing well with disadvantaged students.

Second, teacher education programs should help develop and use comprehensive achievement data systems that will connect teachers and their preparation programs to pupil achievement. He urges the leadership of teacher training institutions to be active nationally and at the state level in the Data Quality Campaign, (www.dataqualitycampaign.org), which NCEA manages with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Third, Hudson will discuss the evidenced-based and data-driven Just for the Kids improvement model and encourage every teacher preparation program to adopt similar improvement models into their curricula.

Fourth, he will share the details of a new teacher training pilot project at Illinois State University as an example of how teacher candidates can gain experience and knowledge on the use of data to guide district and school improvement efforts.

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
1307 New York Avenue, N.W. Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20005 / 202.293.2450 / www.aacte.org



And Finally, Mr. Hudson notes that the successes of teacher preparation programs may be one of the nation’s “best kept secrets,” and he suggests strategies for publicizing the “positive story about teacher education” to the public and policy makers.

Hudson serves as president of NCEA and executive director of the Center for Educational Accountability, a research center at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a native Texan, a graduate of U.S. Military Academy at West Point and The University of Texas Law School. A Vietnam Veteran, he began his career as director of public affairs for the University of Texas System where he was responsible for legislative and congressional representation of all System Component Institutions. He also served as Staff Counsel to the Texas Senate Education Committee and as Chief of Staff and Subcommittee Director in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Hudson joined *Just for the Kids* in 2001 as director of field operations, where he led the effort to expand *Just for the Kids* from a state to nationally recognized organization. In April of 2004, he was appointed president of the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA), which is a partnership between *Just for the Kids*, the Education Commission of the States and The University of Texas at Austin.

To obtain media credentials at the Annual Meeting please visit the AACTE Media Room located in the video conference room on the 4th floor at the Hilton New York.

For more information on the Cohen Lecture or the AACTE Annual Meeting, please contact Jade Floyd at jfloyd@aacte.org or by phone at 202.478.4596.

AACTE: Serving Learners

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) is a national voluntary association of higher education institutions and other organizations and is dedicated to ensuring the highest quality preparation and continuing professional development for teachers and school leaders in order to enhance PK-12 student learning. The almost 800 institutions holding AACTE membership include private, state, and municipal colleges and universities large and small located in every state, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam. In addition, AACTE has a growing number of affiliate members, including state departments of education, community colleges, educational laboratories and centers, and foreign institutions and organizations. Collectively, the AACTE membership prepares more than two-thirds of the new teachers entering schools each year in the United States.