



# NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Colleagues –

January 31 marks the end of a professional chapter for me, as I complete my term as Executive Director of NACEP and hand over the reins to the adept [Amy Williams](#) – an accomplished leader of the dual and concurrent enrollment movement in Montana and recognized nationally through her service over the past five years as a volunteer leader with NACEP.

The ever gracious actress and singer Pearl Bailey said that "We must change in order to survive." In October 2009, the recession was in full swing – General Motors had collapsed and was placed in bankruptcy – the largest corporation ever to go under. Yet 250 committed concurrent enrollment professionals attended the NACEP national conference in Memphis, when I first joined the NACEP family as the organization's first employee. At that time, a new generation of NACEP volunteer leaders prepared the organization for change as it entered its second decade – having met the founders' initial goals of establishing a national organization, hosting regular conferences, adopting standards for program quality, and launching a peer-review accreditation process.

In 2009 Georgia, Hawaii, Oklahoma, and perhaps a few others had prohibitions on the concurrent enrollment model using high school instructors to deliver college courses to high school students. Two years ago Oklahoma removed that prohibition from policy, the last state to do so.

In 2009, fewer than 10% of high school students participated in dual or concurrent enrollment courses. Today, we find leading states like Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, and Wyoming where more than half of high school graduates complete at least one college course prior to graduation. These and other locations are well on the way to achieving NACEP's [vision of a future](#) where **all** high school students are prepared for, have access to, and succeed in quality college classes.

In 2009, there were four references to dual and concurrent enrollment in federal statute, thanks to NACEP volunteers who worked on the 2008 Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Last year Congress reauthorized the [Perkins Career and Technical Education Act](#) with dual and concurrent as a key strategy in career pathways, following on the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act which recognizes concurrent and dual enrollment in [all major provisions](#) – something now [enshrined in 47 state ESSA implementation plans](#).

As NACEP celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, our organization has never been better prepared for a leadership change, with a deep bench of [talented staff](#), an organizational structure and resources to support future growth, a commitment to [diversity and inclusion](#), welcoming of multiple dual enrollment models in our professional development activities and [plans to expand the scope of accreditation](#), and an incredibly strong and dynamic [Board of](#)

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[Directors, Accreditation Commission](#) and hundreds of other volunteers who lead the field by giving back to the profession.

For the next four months, I will continue to support Amy and the NACEP team part-time as a Senior Advisor, ensuring a smooth transition and knowledge transfer. It has been an honor and privilege for me to help the NACEP family navigate the many changes we've gone through together over the past decade. Thanks to each of you for the many ways in which you have enriched my life, I hope that our paths will cross again soon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Lowe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

[Adam I. Lowe](#)

NACEP Executive Director