

**Tenth Anniversary of NACEP**  
**The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships**  
**1999 – 2009**

**Mission:** The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) links college/high school programs offering college courses in high schools. NACEP supports and promotes its constituent partners through quality initiatives, program development, national standards, research, and communication.

**January 2009**

This year, the members of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the organization, taking time to reflect on past accomplishments and goals for the future. NACEP's ten-year anniversary is especially exciting at this particular moment in history—with rapidly increasing numbers of concurrent enrollment programs (CEPs) around the country; greater numbers of students, enrollments, high school partners, and classes; broader state and federal recognition of concurrent enrollment; and very promising preliminary studies of concurrent enrollment.

**NACEP is born**

The first national meeting of the concurrent enrollment professionals who ultimately founded NACEP was convened by Syracuse University and occurred March 16, 1997, at the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE) conference in Washington, D.C. A year later, these participants agreed to meet again at the AAHE conference in Atlanta. In 1999, bylaws and a mission statement were adopted, and NACEP was officially established. From the original 20 founding institutions, membership has grown to 352 members (146 institutional and 206 individual), from 29 states. NACEP is the national forum for concurrent enrollment, providing peer review of programs for accreditation, annual conferences, assistance with evaluation and research, work in government relations, and communication through its listserv, Web site, and newsletter.

**Standards are adopted**

The assurance of quality for university and college classes offered by concurrent enrollment partnerships is a key concern of NACEP leaders and members. To this end, the standards adopted in 2002 provide measurable criteria of CEP elements in five categories that are markers of excellent programs: curriculum, faculty, students, assessment, and program evaluation. In 2004, the first four concurrent enrollment programs were accredited after a team of peers carefully reviewed their accreditation applications (documenting how they met NACEP standards). To date, 33 programs from 14 different states have been accredited (See Appendix I in this document), and 17 more are under review at this time.

To ensure that concurrent enrollment continues to offer excellence in changing times, the Accreditation Committee and Board of Directors have been working for two years on the

challenging task of revising the original standards, with open discussion among members facilitated by sessions at conferences and a WIKI on the NACEP Web site. In August 2009, the Accreditation Committee expects to post on the NACEP Web site the first revision of the NACEP standards, known as *Standards 2011*, so that members from accredited institutions can vote, at the October 2009 conference, on adopting and implementing the proposed, revised standards for 2011, when the programs first accredited in 2004 are due for their first renewal.

### **National conferences begin**

Also in the past ten years, NACEP Vice Presidents, together with volunteer member host institutions, have overseen 11 national conferences. The annual conferences provide NACEP members opportunities to learn colleagues' best practices for meeting the NACEP standards so they may better prepare for accreditation review and/or make continuing improvements in their programs. Conferences also provide members opportunities to network with colleagues around the country to learn about other states' practices, policies and procedures, guidelines and legislation for CEPs. In 2000, the first NACEP conference in Bloomington, Indiana, included 31 representatives from 12 institutions. In 2001-02 the fall conference was canceled due to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center but the spring 2002 conference was held in Newport, RI. In 2002 - 03 NACEP held two conferences, the first that fall in Duluth, Minnesota, and the second that spring in Greensboro, North Carolina. Beginning in fall 2003, the organization moved to a schedule of one annual conference each fall: 2003 in Syracuse, NY; 2004 in Boise; 2005 in St. Louis; 2006 in Arlington; 2007 in Salt Lake City; and 2008 in Kansas City. The 2008 conference was, of course, the largest yet, with 280 people registered. The fall 2009 conference will be held in Memphis, and the fall 2010 conference will be held in Minneapolis.

### **Support for program improvement and national reform are strengthened**

In addition to the accreditation of 33 programs, sponsorship of 11 conferences (which bring concurrent enrollment practitioners from all over the nation together), an active listserv, Web site, and a newsletter, NACEP also continues to support its members with assistance in research and program evaluation and with work in government relations. The Research Committee recently concluded the painstaking task of creating surveys recommended for the required annual freshman student follow-up surveys, the college graduate follow-up surveys, and the five-year impact surveys of high school instructors, counselors, and principals (all posted on NACEP Web site). The Committee is now beginning a pilot study of these surveys, "to begin comparing data from these surveys to determine benchmarks and the importance of particular questions" (11/12/08 e-mail on NACEP listserv from Gillian B. Thorne, Research Committee Chair, and Dan Judd, Assessment Specialist).

The thrust of the efforts of the Government Relations Committee for the past five years was to gain recognition for concurrent enrollment in federal legislation and with the federal Department of Education (See NACEP Platform in Appendix II of this document). Committee members have advocated on the hill each year in support of high value concurrent enrollment. Consequently, concurrent enrollment is recognized in the Higher Education Reauthorization legislation and American Competitive Grant legislation. Concurrent enrollment is also mentioned in the NCLB

reauthorization legislation, and the NACEP Government Relations Committee will continue to insure that concurrent enrollment is included when NCLB comes up for vote. Three states require NACEP accreditation of CEPs (Arkansas, Indiana, Minnesota), and three others (Idaho, Kansas, Utah) base state guidelines on the NACEP standards.

**Governing body fosters growth and effectiveness**

NACEP is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the following elected officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Member-at-Large, Four-year Public Institution Representative, Four-year Private Institution Representative, and Two-year Public Institution Representative. In addition to the elected officers, the President appoints a Treasurer who serves at the discretion of the Board. The immediate Past President is also a member of the Board. The Chairs of the Standing Committees (Accreditation, Communications, Government Relations, Membership, and Research), who are appointed by the President, complete the Board of Directors. The following highly dedicated people have served as Presidents of NACEP and provided the leadership that fostered its remarkable growth and effectiveness:

Bob Meikle	Rhode Island College (Providence, RI)	2000 - 02
Karen Mills	Rio Salado College (Tempe, AZ)	2002 – 04
Gerald S. Edmonds (Jerry)	Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)	2004 - 06
Dianne Siegfroid (Sig)	Weber State University (Ogden, UT)	2006 – 08
Ted Ungricht	Utah Valley State College (Orem, UT)	2008 - present

Students, their families, teachers, partnering high schools, colleges/universities, and states all benefit significantly from quality concurrent enrollment. In ten years, NACEP has come to play an increasingly important role safeguarding these benefits with quality assurance and support for members. In this tenth anniversary year, let’s celebrate and thank the great vision and perseverance of the original founding members, the hard-working Presidents and Board Members, and all the other dedicated members who have volunteered their time and skills and worked so hard over the years to make NACEP the strong, successful organization it is today—providing better than ever resources for concurrent enrollment partnerships seeking continuous improvement, national reform, and validation of excellent programming.

## APPENDIX I

### Accreditation History (year institutions were awarded accredited status)

2004: (4)

1. Rio Salado College (Tempe, AZ)
2. Finger Lakes Community College (Canandaigua, NY)
3. Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)
4. University of North Carolina at Greensboro

2005: (4)

5. Indiana University at Bloomington
6. University of Minnesota Duluth
7. University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
8. Vincennes University (Vincennes, IN)

2006: (9)

9. Herkimer County Community College (Herkimer, NY)
10. Johnson County Community College (Overland Park, KS)
11. Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, ID)
12. Onondaga Community College (Liverpool, NY)
13. Salt Lake Community College (Salt Lake City, UT)
14. Schenectady County Community College (Schenectady, NY)
15. Utah Valley State College (Orem, UT)
16. University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, IN)
17. Weber State University (Ogden, UT)

2007: (9)

18. Central Washington University (Ellensburg, WA)
19. Erie Community College (Williamsville, NY)
20. Indiana University at South Bend
21. Lewis & Clark Community College (Godfrey, IL)
22. Mesabi Range Community/Technical College (Virginia, MN)
23. Niagara County Community College (Sanborn, NY)
24. University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT)
25. University of Minnesota-Crookston
26. University of Washington-Seattle

2008: (7)

27. Corning Community College (Corning, NY)
28. Jefferson Community College (NY)
29. Missouri Baptist University (St. Louis, MO)
30. Monroe Community College (NY)
31. Nebraska Wesleyan University (Lincoln, NE)
32. University of Missouri-Kansas City (MO)
33. University of Arkansas-Monticello (AR)

## APPENDIX II

### **NACEP Platform**

- Support language in Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to include Concurrent Enrollment programs as a viable form of access to college for all students.
- Support Concurrent Enrollment programs ensuring that ALL students in good standing have equal access to engage in college classes providing academic rigor for a more meaningful high school experience.
- Support access to federal appropriations funding for Concurrent Enrollment programs.
- Support partner institutions in ongoing professional development of high school Concurrent Enrollment instructors in the continuous improvement process.
- Support adherence to an accepted set of national standards that ensure quality Concurrent Enrollment programs.
- Support ongoing, documented research and evaluation of students, faculty, schools, and colleges in Concurrent Enrollment programs to provide continuous program improvement and the most effective state and federal policies.

## APPENDIX III

### **NACEP Founding Members**

1. Corning Community College
2. Finger Lakes Community College
3. Indiana University – Bloomington
4. Indiana University - South Bend
5. Kenyon College
6. Rhode Island College
7. Rio Salado College
8. Saint Louis University
9. Salt Lake Community College
10. Syracuse University
11. University of Connecticut
12. University of Minnesota-Duluth
13. University of Missouri- Kansas City
14. University of Missouri-Saint Louis
15. University of North Carolina at Greensboro
16. University of Pittsburg
17. University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
18. Utah State University
19. Utah Valley State University
20. Weber State University