



Florida Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
<http://www.facte.info>

Message from the FACTE President



FACTE members had much to consider at the conclusion of the fall 2009 FACTE Conference at the University of Central Florida. A record 103 attendees participated in a fall conference that included Representative Bill Proctor; Commissioner Eric Smith and other members of the Florida Department of Education; speakers representing the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, the Florida Board of Governors, and the Florida College System; and a session on Title II reporting. In addition, a complimentary FACTE preconference workshop, presented by state and national speakers, focused on *How to Demonstrate the Impact of Candidates on P-12 Student Learning*.

This spring, we look forward to an opportunity to visit legislators during the **March 15-16, 2010 FACTE Conference and Day on the Hill in Tallahassee**. Our spring conference is scheduled to take place on March 15 and 16 at the Tallahassee Community College Capitol Center on West Pensacola Street in Tallahassee. In planning the conference, several things were considered. First, representatives from the 37 FACTE member institutions have expressed an enthusiasm for continuing the spring meeting and Day on the Hill in Tallahassee, but they shared concerns about travel and budget restrictions. Therefore, the length of the spring conference has been reduced by a half day. Second, because our fall conference at the University of Central Florida featured several speakers from the State Capitol, continued interaction with these speakers was recommended. By meeting in Tallahassee, we can accomplish this goal. Third, during the fall conference, a panel session, entitled *The Changing Landscape of Higher Education: Does Florida have a Plan?*, left many of us with more questions than answers. By meeting in Tallahassee, these questions can be pursued further with the panelists. Therefore, the FACTE conference and business meeting will occur on Monday, March 15 leaving Tuesday, March 16 for FACTE members to visit legislators, attend committee meetings, and meet with individuals from other organizations and associations.

The spring 2010 agenda includes a return visit from Representative Bill Proctor who will give us a legislative update from the Florida House perspective. We will hear from Janet Owen, Vice President for Governmental Affairs at the University of North Florida who will provide a bill analysis. Our agenda also includes an update from the Florida Department of Education with an opportunity for questions, preparation for Hill visits, a business meeting, and a reception.

Along with the other members of the FACTE Executive Committee, I look forward to your active involvement this spring, because it is through our collective efforts that we influence policies and practices in Florida. The best way to show policy makers and other decision makers that we want a voice in policy is by sharing that voice with them and demonstrating that FACTE *is* an essential voice in educator preparation in Florida.

Jennifer Platt
FACTE President