



## Teacher Education Accreditation Council

### Highlights from the Academic Audit Research SIG Sessions AERA Annual Meeting, April 30-May 4, 2010

The Academic Audit Research SIG sessions at the 2010 AERA Annual Meeting in Denver featured a high level of interest in and discussion about some of the challenges involved in creating and evaluating a coherent educator preparation program. [See session highlights.]

Two groups of presenters from the 2009 Annual Meeting returned to present updates of their efforts to evaluate student teaching. Joan Shields from St. Peter's College shared the progress of a multi-institutional consortium from New Jersey on designing and implementing a common student teaching evaluation instrument, and Jim Carroll and Jackie Waggoner from the University of Portland discussed their use of a teacher work sample to capture elements of the student teaching experience not easily assessed by an observation form. Audience members were eager to learn how the presenters had addressed a number of measurement issues, many of which related to the general theme of using a standard assessment process to evaluate highly variable student teaching experiences. Christine Carrino Gorowara from TEAC and the University of Delaware shared preliminary results of an analysis of what teacher education programs assess during student teaching. [For more information on these papers, contact Joan Shields ([jshields@spc.edu](mailto:jshields@spc.edu)), Jim Carroll ([carroll@up.edu](mailto:carroll@up.edu)), and Christine Carrino Gorowara ([christine@teac.org](mailto:christine@teac.org)).]

Presenters from four programs offered strategies for involving faculty in program evaluation efforts. Jackie Kress from Georgian Court University discussed the importance of intentionality and presented data showing its effects, Noela Haughton and Virginia Keil from the University of Toledo shared the successes and challenges of their integrated data management system, Katy Herbold from Southern Utah University discussed the use of visual "dashboards" of data that communicate quickly and efficiently, and discussant Bill Rickards from Alverno College talked about building assessment systems around the ways in which assessment naturally occurs within an organization. The discussion that followed focused largely on ways of engaging faculty members, with presenters emphasizing the importance of structuring program evaluation around the faculty's interests and their own data collection and findings. [For more information on these papers, contact Jackie Kress ([jkress@georgian.edu](mailto:jkress@georgian.edu)), Noela Haughton ([noela.haughton@utoledo.edu](mailto:noela.haughton@utoledo.edu)), Katy Herbold ([herbold@suu.edu](mailto:herbold@suu.edu)), and Bill Rickards ([william.rickards@alverno.edu](mailto:william.rickards@alverno.edu)).]

Finally, TEAC President Frank Murray presented findings from TEAC's ten years of accreditation that in some cases contradict conventional wisdom — for example, TEAC audits of GPA data indicate that teacher education students are as accomplished or more so than their non-teacher education peers in content area courses. Session attendees posed questions about value-added assessments, the zeitgeist topic of the AERA conference, to which Murray responded by encouraging teacher education faculty members to push back with assessments that they can demonstrate are more useful and credible, pointing out that in the absence of such alternatives, federal and state agencies will hold teacher education programs accountable using politically popular measures.

For faculty members who are involved in program assessment research associated with accreditation, the Academic Audit Research SIG offers a forum for connecting with others engaged with the same issues and for receiving scholarly recognition for their efforts. If you have not already joined the SIG, please consider supporting these important opportunities by becoming a member — note that membership totals determine the number of sessions the SIG can offer at future meetings. Enrolling is quick and easy: simply log in at [www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net), choose "SIG Memberships," then "Purchase Additional SIG Memberships," where you will see **SIG 174: Academic Audit Research in Teacher Education**.