

edTPA Bias
Letter 1

a. Letter 1—to MACTE

Heading

Dear Kitty Ford,
President, Minnesota Association for Colleges of Teacher Education

I write on behalf of members of the education unit at St. Cloud state and the members of my advisory committee. Recently we convened the faculty to review selected national data from the spring 2013 edTPA pilot study. We concluded that most of the issues that arose would best be addressed via a MACTE-level discussion, especially given that the organization has dedicated resources to lobbying.

Please find our issues below:

- We have some concerns that African American and white candidates scored differentially on the pilot assessment, the two populations were about 1/3 of an SD apart favoring white candidates. We want to explore racial/ethnic differences further and to support the collection of data at the state level.
- Because of this discrepancy, we have recommended to the Board of Teaching that a moratorium be placed on the decision to make edTPA high stakes for candidates until and unless we can learn more about (a) racial/ethnic disparities, and (b) the predictive validity of edTPA *in Minnesota*.. We propose that MACTE join us in this moratorium and study request.
- We understand that the organizations with an interest in these decisions and proposals may need to undertake conversations with members of the legislature. We hope that this can be completed through MACTE
- Stanford Center (SCALE) publications indicate that they have charged an anti-bias group with examining equity issues re the performance assessment. We think that, as an early adopting state, Minnesota (through MACTE) should request representation on this anti-bias group.

I hope that you can place these issues before your executive committee and the next Congress for discussion. We will support this conversation in any way that we can.

Osman Alawiye
Dean, School of Education, SCSU