The CAEP State Alliance for Clinical Preparation and Partnerships

Launched in 2010, the CAEP State Alliance for Clinical Preparation and Partnerships (the Alliance) is a network of 13 states and their participating institutions dedicated to transforming educator preparation through high quality clinical practice and partnerships.

During its first three years, the Alliance has used the 10 design principles developed by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation and Partnerships for Improved Student Learning, to build a collaborative foundation for sharing promising practices, building state level alliances, and exploring specific clinical components for innovation and improvement. The participating member states of the Alliance over the past three years --- Alabama, California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon and Tennessee --- have provided a rich and diverse array of ideas and efforts in promoting clinical programs and partnerships through a regular series of convenings and teleconferences.

With the CAEP Board of Directors' approval of the new CAEP Accreditation Standards for Educator Preparation in August of 2013, clinical practice took on an even greater significance for preparation programs and institutions. The second of the new five primary standards raised the bar on what high quality, effective clinical programs should accomplish: "… effective partnerships and high-quality clinical practice are central to preparation so that candidates develop the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions necessary to demonstrate positive impact on all P-12 students' learning and development…."

For the next phase of its work, the Alliance is thus focusing on a series of strategies for program innovation, joint problem solving and partnership development based upon the following goals:

> I. Leadership—Provide leadership within and among states for the transformation of preparation programs through the development and expansion of high quality, clinically-based programs;

> II. Collaboration—Support collaborative partnerships among schools, districts, and providers in designing and implementing clinically-based programs;

> III. Research and Development—Engage in action-focused investigations to support the design and development of program prototypes, to address persistent problems of practice, share promising practices, and implement new accreditation standards;

> IV. Policy—Promote supportive state and local policies for sustaining and scaling effective programs.

Given the complexity of many of the issues in the clinical preparation arena, the Alliance has turned to the improvement research work of the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to design a systematic process of inquiry for Alliance members'

use in addressing persistent clinical issues. The Alliance's process --- called the Clinical Innovation Collaborative (CIC) process --- involves a networked approach to identifying problems of practice, generating innovative solutions, developing metrics, and testing and scaling promising practices.

In addition to implementing the CIC process, the Alliance's plans for the future include an online platform for collecting and sharing promising practices, a series of problem solving forums and webinars on high priority issues facing programs, networking opportunities for member states, and technical assistance consultations for all members. In its leadership role in educator preparation, CAEP seeks to leverage the knowledge and expertise of the Alliance members toward transforming the field.

The Alliance ultimately aims to answer the original challenge issued by the Blue Ribbon Panel three years ago to establish clinical partnership and practice as the central organizing concept for the effective preparation of educators. As the Panel emphasized, "…The nation needs an entire system of excellent clinically based programs, not a cottage industry of path breaking initiatives".