



AILACTE

Association of Independent Liberal Arts
Colleges for Teacher Education

Views & News October 2025



Chandra Foote, PhD
President, AILACTE

Message from the President

As autumn invites us into a season of both reflection and momentum, it reminds us of the strength we find in community. In times when educator preparation faces mounting pressures—policy shifts, institutional closures, and enrollment challenges—our shared commitment to mission and collaboration has never been more vital.

This year, AILACTE has taken important steps to deepen our partnership with AACTE. Together, we will offer six joint sessions at the upcoming annual conference in New Orleans from February 20-22, 2026, a sign of our collective resolve to learn from one another and to amplify our shared voice in the field.

I especially encourage you to join us for our conference on February 19, when AILACTE will host a special panel featuring faculty and administrators who have navigated the closure of their institutions and educator preparation programs. Their stories of resilience and care—for students, colleagues, and themselves—offer both cautionary lessons and sources of inspiration for us all.

As we move forward into this season, may we continue to nurture hope, wisdom, and justice in the next generation of educators—and in one another. I look forward to the conversations, connections, and renewed commitments that await us in New Orleans.



Apply for an AILACTE Award

Apply for one of the AILACTE Awards:

- Diversity and Inclusion Change Agent Award
- Scholar Award
- Graduate Scholar Award
- Global Excellence Award
- Partnership Award

Learn more about each award online and apply today! Applications are **due October 15, 2025** and recipients will be **notified November 15, 2025**.

[Apply for an Award](#)



2026 AILACTE Conference

AILACTE's 2026 National Conference will be held in **New Orleans, LA February 19 & 20**.

Join us for presentations related to the conference theme: *"Independent Voices, Collective Impact: Shaping the Future of Educator Preparation"*.

There is still time to submit a proposal! **September 30, 2025** is the latest date for submission.

As an affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), the conference will include a registration option for a discounted rate to attend AACTE's conference in addition to the AILACTE Conference. Stay tuned for registration details!

[Conference Website](#)



2026 Call for Manuscripts

Consider submitting a manuscript for the 2026 volume of the AILACTE Journal. We are eager to learn from your experiences, research, and ideas related to AI and teacher preparation.

Manuscripts may address any issue that enhances the work of teacher educators in a liberal arts context. Topics that are appropriate for the journal include teaching



Call for Reviewers

We are seeking experienced and dedicated professionals in the field of education to join our team of reviewers. Several of the benefits to serving include:

- Contributing to the advancement of research in liberal arts education and teacher preparation
- Gaining insight into the latest research trends and methodologies
- Enhancing your professional

and learning strategies; diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice; responding to state mandates; candidate and faculty recruitment; tenure track and the use of adjuncts and professors of practice; budget issues; candidate and program assessment; program leadership; clinical practice and partnerships; policy changes; program models; etc.

Manuscripts are due **June 10, 2026** and can be submitted online.

[View the Submission Guidelines](#)



Share with Us

Take a minute to share your institution's successes, challenges, and ideas for advocacy to help us highlight distinctive contributions and needs.

Collecting this information is vital for ensuring that our collective voice is heard within the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE).

Together, we can strengthen our impact and ensure that the value of liberal arts-based teacher preparation is recognized and supported. We encourage you to share your insights and be part of this important effort!

[Share with Us](#)



Get to Know our Board of Directors and State Representatives!

Are you familiar with your AILACTE **State Representative**? If not, take a moment to find out who represents your state. If your

development and academic credentials

- Receiving acknowledgment on the journal's website as a member of the Editorial Review Board

If you are interested in becoming a reviewer for the AILACTE Journal, complete the application below.

[Reviewer Application](#)



Renew Your Membership

It's not too late to renew your AILACTE membership online!

Being a member of AILACTE promotes policies that benefit and advance Liberal Arts Educator Preparation programs.

AILACTE's seat at the AACTE table keeps member's voices regarding teacher preparation priorities and values at the forefront.

[Renew Now](#)



Follow us on LinkedIn

Follow AILACTE on LinkedIn for the latest in teacher preparation and professional development!

state doesn't have a representative, consider stepping up to fill that role.

Get to know the members of the AILACTE **Board of Directors**! You will see these individuals at our annual conference and can reach out at any time to discuss any of your institution's successes, challenges, and ideas for advocacy!

**Board of
Directors**

Stay connected with our community of educators and gain access to valuable resources, events, and insights that support the growth of aspiring teachers.

Whether you're in the classroom or preparing future educators, AILACTE is a great place to learn, collaborate, and engage!

Follow Us!

State Representatives

AILACTE Institutional Spotlight

DAEMEN

— UNIVERSITY —

Daemen University (Amherst, NY)

Daemen University, founded in 1947 as Rosary Hill College by the Sisters of St. Francis, has grown from its roots as a liberal arts college for women into an independent, nonsectarian comprehensive university serving approximately 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students. Recognized as one of the few Doctoral/Professional Universities in the region by the Carnegie Classification, Daemen continues to prepare creative, ethically minded leaders through a mission that blends liberal arts with professional excellence and a commitment to social contribution.

Teacher preparation at Daemen is housed across five departments and two campuses and guided by a philosophy of inclusion, relationships, and student-first support. At the Amherst campus, nine undergraduate teacher preparation programs span early childhood through adolescence education, alongside a customizable Educational Studies major for students pursuing non-certification pathways. At the graduate level, three blended online programs in Inclusive Childhood Education serve both career changers entering the field and practicing teachers seeking additional certifications. Daemen's Brooklyn branch campus expands this reach with four graduate blended programs in early childhood and childhood education, offered in both traditional and alternative residency-based structures.

Field experiences and partnerships are integral to the program design. With placements across New York State, the United States, and beyond—including nearly half of Amherst graduate students completing their practicum in Ontario, Canada—Daemen emphasizes authentic, hands-on learning. Most candidates pursue dual certification in general and special education, reflecting the university's inclusive approach to preparing teachers of all learners, including students with disabilities and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Daemen's education programs are distinguished by their student-centered approach and

customized certification guidance. Faculty and staff work closely with both current students and alumni to support ongoing professional growth and additional certification opportunities. Rooted in strong relationships with schools, communities, and global partners, Daemen University's teacher preparation programs embody a commitment to preparing educators who can thrive in diverse classrooms and make meaningful contributions to society.

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AILACTE | PO Box 366 | Singers Glen, VA 22850 US

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