



# AILACTE

**Association of Independent Liberal Arts  
Colleges for Teacher Education**

## Views & News January 2026



**Chandra Foote, PhD**  
President, AILACTE

### Message from the President

As we begin a new year, January offers a moment of clarity and resolve—a time to set intentions for the work ahead. In educator preparation, that work remains deeply human, even as we navigate rapid technological change, evolving policy landscapes, and ongoing pressures on our institutions. Independent liberal arts colleges continue to play a vital role by preparing educators who lead with reflection, compassion, and purpose. This spring, our collective focus turns to the annual conference, where this year's strands reflect both the urgency and promise of our field. *Humanizing Pedagogies in a Digital Age* invites us to examine how relationship-centered teaching, ethics, and care can remain at the heart of educator preparation amid expanding technologies. *Sustaining Programs with Big Impact* highlights innovative approaches to enrollment, accreditation, cross-campus collaboration, and curricular redesign that support the vitality and longevity of our programs.

The conference will also center *Advancing Equity-Centered and Inclusive Educator Preparation*, encouraging us to critically examine our institutional contexts while preparing future educators to foster equity, belonging, and justice in diverse P-12 classrooms. In addition, *Clinical Partnerships in Rural, Urban, and High-Need Communities* will spotlight partnerships grounded in reciprocity, local knowledge, and long-term impact—partnerships that strengthen both schools and preparation programs.

I encourage you to join us for these important conversations and connections. Conference registration is now open and available at <https://ailacte.org/conference/registration>. Your presence and participation are essential as we learn from one another and continue to advance educator preparation rooted in mission, equity, and impact.

As we move into the spring semester, thank you for the steadfast work you do to prepare educators who will serve students and communities with integrity and hope. I look forward to the insights and collaborations that await us in the months ahead.



## 2026 AILACTE Conference

AILACTE's 2026 National Conference will be held in **New Orleans, LA February 19-21**.

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

As an affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), the conference includes a registration option for a discounted rate to attend AACTE's conference in addition to the AILACTE Conference. Register today!

[Register for the Conference](#)



## 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 and learning strategies; diversity, equity,

## 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 development and academic

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](#)



## Get to Know AILACTE!

Are you familiar with other member institutions or your **AILACTE State Representative**? If not, take a moment to find out who is involved and who represents your state. If your 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](#)

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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](#)



## Follow us on LinkedIn

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

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!

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## AILACTE Institutional Spotlight



## Seattle Pacific University

Seattle Pacific University's (SPU's) **College of Humanities, Education, and the Arts** invites students to discover how faith and inquiry combine to equip students with knowledge, creativity, and compassion. Accredited programs in education, arts, and humanities prepare graduates to inspire change in classrooms, communities, and beyond.

SPU has a long-held reputation as one of the premier teacher preparation programs in the state and region. The School of Education offers a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with kindergarten through 8th grade certification. With this degree you will be prepared to be a highly effective teacher in elementary and middle school classrooms.

The program's framework is thoughtfully designed to guide students through a seamless progression across four distinct stages, culminating in a well-prepared education and future career. From foundational knowledge acquisition to hands-on application, each stage equips students with the requisite skills and expertise, fostering their growth and readiness to be a successful educator. This structured approach not only imparts a strong theoretical foundation but also provides the real-world exposure and confidence necessary to excel in the classroom.

The K-8 Elementary Education major offers students the opportunity to enhance their professional qualifications by adding three endorsements to their primary teaching degree. These endorsements provide educators with specialized skills and knowledge that can significantly enrich their teaching capabilities and expand their career opportunities. Whether it's in the realm of special education, multilingual learners, or reading instruction, these additional qualifications empower teachers to better meet the diverse needs of their students. Each endorsement brings unique insights and strategies to the table, equipping educators to create inclusive and effective learning environments while also enhancing their competitiveness in the job market.

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