

National council awards certification to Alfred University teacher education program

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The Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) has awarded national accreditation to the teacher education program at Alfred University. TEAC is recognized as a national accreditor by the U.S. Department of Education and by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. AU's teacher education program joins more than 100 accredited programs in 21 states with TEAC-accredited educator preparation programs. Dr. Frank B. Murray, president of TEAC commented, "Only a bare majority of the nation's college and university teacher education programs and programs for professional educators in the United States are nationally accredited. We welcome Alfred University to this select group." Dr. Ann Monroe-Baillargeon, chairman of the Education Division and associate professor of education at Alfred University noted, "The Alfred University Division of Education participated in a two-year process of self study resulting in an inquiry brief, then was reviewed through an accreditation team audit resulting in the award of a five-year accreditation. This was accomplished through the commitment of the outstanding faculty who willingly contributed to a study of themselves, their work, and our collective work as a division. With this accreditation as our foundation we look to expanding our current teacher certification program offerings." Founded in 1997, TEAC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving academic degree programs for professional educators, those who will teach and lead in school pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Accreditation by TEAC is a voluntary system of quality review for educator preparation programs. It is designed to assure both education professionals and the public of the institution's commitment to academic quality and fiscal integrity as well as stimulate ongoing improvement in its educator preparation program. Graduates of accredited programs can be confident that they are well prepared as competent, caring, and qualified educators. To be accredited by TEAC, a teacher education program must have solid, independently verifiable evidence of its graduates' competence. The program must show that its graduates understand the subject matter they are certified to teach, understand the process of learning and teaching, and possess teaching skills that lead students to appropriate levels of achievement. The program must also have an ongoing process for reviewing and improving itself, and must demonstrate that it has the capacity to offer quality education. The TEAC accreditation process includes two levels of decision-making, culminating in a decision by TEAC's Accreditation Committee, which includes representatives of both the public and the education profession.