

PRESS RELEASE

NCTQ and SearchSoft Provide Important New Tool for School Districts to Recruit Best Trained New Teachers

July 9, 2013 (Washington, DC) – The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), which recently released the first edition of the *Teacher Prep Review*, an annual study rating the quality of teacher prep programs, and SearchSoft, a leading provider of web-based hiring and evaluation systems for the K-12 market, have teamed up to help school districts use the ratings to screen teacher applicants.

The ratings, currently available on both the NCTQ and *U.S. News & World Report* websites, will be integrated into SearchSoft hiring systems, providing HR officials in school districts with detailed information on the quality of training that aspiring elementary and secondary teachers receive at 1,100 colleges and universities across the country. The *Review* determines if programs are covering the fundamentals of teacher preparation, from admissions requirements to the quality of the student teaching experience, including preparation in teachers' content areas, early reading instruction (for elementary teachers), and classroom management.

SearchSoft's *Applicant Tracking System* is a recruiting and hiring system employed by thousands of schools across the country. This new partnership will allow HR staff in schools to view program ratings for each job applicant's undergraduate or graduate teacher prep program. This data set gives principals and other hiring managers an important tool to screen teaching candidates, saving time and money and delivering the best-prepared candidates to the classroom.

"Every school leader should be equipped to build a dream team," said Kate Walsh, president of NCTQ. "When making hiring decisions, it's imperative that school leaders have every measure of a candidate available--and what kind of training a candidate received is no small measure. Our partnership with *U.S. News & World Report* ensures that aspiring teachers will have ready access to program quality; this partnership with SearchSoft ensures that school districts also have easy access."

"Understanding the quality of different prep programs is of vital importance for our customers," said Mark Strickland, SearchSoft's chairman. "NCTQ has been a leader in the work to better understand this issue in great detail. We are excited to be their partner in delivering this research directly to the people who choose teachers for our nation's classrooms. We look forward to working with NCTQ to make a lasting contribution to public education."

For more information about the *Teacher Prep Review*, see: nctq.org/teacherPrep

For more information on SearchSoft's products and services, see www.searchsoft.net

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About NCTQ

The National Council on Teacher Quality advocates for reforms in a broad range of teacher policies at the federal, state and local levels in order to increase the number of effective teachers. We are committed to lending transparency and increasing public awareness about the four sets of institutions that have the greatest impact on teacher quality: states, teacher preparation programs, school districts and teachers unions.