



National Council on Teacher Quality

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For Immediate Release

October 15, 2012

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**National Council on Teacher Quality Announces Advertising Campaign  
to Support Organization's Teacher Prep Review--  
University Student Groups Also Begin to Take Action**

*Review Seeks to Shine Light on Nation's Best Programs and Help Others Improve so That  
Every Student in Every Classroom Has a Quality Teacher from Day 1; NCTQ Asks  
College Students for Help in Providing Basic Information About Schools of Education That  
Schools Themselves Will Not Provide*

Washington, DC – The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) is launching a national advertising campaign targeted at the schools of education around the country that have declined to provide NCTQ with information needed for its rating of teacher preparation programs to be published by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2013. NCTQ has requested basic course materials from over 1,100 teacher preparation programs, in its effort to analyze how effective these programs are at preparing classroom-ready teachers. Many of the schools have declined to provide NCTQ with the information, and as a result, NCTQ has launched an ad campaign to recruit students at these institutions to assist with the information-gathering process. For more details on the ad campaign and to see the ad, go to [nctq.org/righttoknow](http://nctq.org/righttoknow).

"We do a great disservice to teachers when we hand them the keys to a classroom without giving them the knowledge, skills and practice they need to be fully prepared," said Kate Walsh, President of NCTQ. "Unfortunately, the consumers of these programs, notably aspiring teachers, have no idea which programs will provide the best training and which will not. That needs to change."

Many institutions of higher education around the country are resisting the NCTQ review. NCTQ has filed open records requests for information in many states and in response some public institutions are forcing NCTQ, a nonprofit organization, to effectively buy basic documents like course syllabi and student teaching handbooks. In some states, NCTQ has turned to the legal system to force institutions to comply with the state's sunshine laws.

Some college students are also objecting to the non-cooperation of their institutions. The Missouri Students Association Academic Affairs chairman proposed legislation to create a "syllabus repository," responding to the University of Missouri's refusal to turn over syllabi to NCTQ. That resolution was approved on October 11<sup>th</sup> at a Joint Session Meeting of the Missouri Students Association, Residence Halls Association, Legion of Black Collegians and the Graduate Professional Council. For more information on the proposal, go to: <http://www.themaneater.com/stories/2012/10/12/msa-hosts-joint-session-rha-lbc-gpc/>

A similar resolution from the University of Maryland Student Government Association was passed by the full faculty Senate with a 58-14 vote this September and approved by UMD president Wallace D. Loh on September 27th. For more information on that approved policy, go to: <https://www.senate.umd.edu/sms/index.cfm?event=publicViewBill&billId=213&context=c>

The NCTQ ad campaign, which launches on October 22nd with ads scheduled for about one hundred student newspapers around the country, appeals to students on public and private campuses to share materials, in return for small stipends, so that NCTQ can produce the most fair and accurate rating of every program.

Walsh added, "The public has the right to know how publicly approved teacher prep

programs (both public and private institutions), many of which receive public tax dollars, are preparing public school teachers.”

She continued, “Textbooks, course syllabi and student teaching handbooks are simple things for schools to provide, but since they haven’t, we are turning to students at these programs for help.”

NCTQ’s review, which is the first of its kind, has been endorsed by 16 state school chiefs, including all the members of the Chiefs for Change coalition, dozens of school superintendents, the Council of Great City Schools, and over 50 education, children, business and civil rights advocacy groups across 38 states, all committed to improving public education and the teaching profession in the United States. The project is funded by 58 local and national foundations spanning the political spectrum and sharing a vision for a strong public education system. To learn more about the review, visit:

[nctq.org/p/edschools/](http://nctq.org/p/edschools/)

*The [National Council on Teacher Quality](http://nctq.org) is a non-profit organization comprising reform-minded Democrats, Republicans, and Independents entirely funded by private funds. The organization supports reforms in a broad range of teacher policies and seeks to lend transparency and accountability to the institutions that have the greatest impact on teacher quality: state governments, institutions which prepare teachers, school districts, and teachers unions.*