

Reflecting on SPAN 2017 and Previewing SPAN 2018

By **Karen Lafferty**

Co-Chair of CCTE Spring SPAN Conferences

Thank you to all who attended the California Council on Teacher Education's 2017 Spring Policy Action Network (SPAN) Conference in Sacramento on March 30 and 31. We had our largest registration ever for a CCTE spring meeting! We appreciate you braving the high winds in the Metropolitan Terrace room and joining us for two days of policy-focused research, advocacy, and activities.

One highlight of Thursday morning was getting an inside view of state policy from Chelsea Kelley, consultant to the California State Assembly Education Committee, and Susanna Cooper, senior education policy consultant. Kelley shared an important insight—because currently the Senate and Assembly are more or less aligned, the key becomes placing pressure on Governor Jerry Brown. She also offered suggestions on how CCTE can be effective, especially in coalition building. In the question and answer part of this session, CCTE members were able to voice their concerns about issues such as DACA and early childhood education.

Over lunch Thursday, attendees had the opportunity to hear remarks from Mark LaCelle-Peterson, Senior Vice President for Policy & Programs at AACTE. He emphasized the value of teacher educators taking control of the narrative around teacher preparation to focus on quality, innovation, and partnerships, encouraging CCTE members to use their voices to tell the real story of what's happening in teacher education.

In Thursday afternoon's split session, some conference participants remained at The Citizen Hotel for a policy analysis session while others headed to the State Capitol where they were able to become familiar with the layout of offices and leave materials with staffers, laying the groundwork for future visits. The California education deans also met at the Capitol and spoke with two members of the State Assembly. In the conference evaluations, people expressed that for next year they would like to set up meetings with staffers and legislators ahead of time. Rest assured, this is already in the works for SPAN 2018!

During the policy analysis session at the hotel, participants heard more from Mark LaCelle-Peterson, as well as from Roneeta Guha of the Learning Policy Institute, and CCTE's policy committee chairs, Mona Thompson and Sue Westbrook. Participants then held table discussions to help determine where CCTE should focus its policy efforts in the future.

Following the split session, the group reconvened late Thursday afternoon for a Policy Allies panel. Speakers included Timothy J. Allen of the Carlston Family Foundation, Jo Birdsell of Independent California Colleges and Universities Council on the Education of Teachers, Phil Garcia from California State University at Sacramento, E. Toby Boyd of the California Teachers Association, and Car-

los Machado of the California School Boards Association. These speakers each shared thoughts on advocacy and offered policymaking advice to CCTE.

Thursday was rounded out by a reception where State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson stopped by to welcome CCTE to Sacramento. The SPAN Planning Committee would like to recognize the reception sponsors, The Carlston Family Foundation, the California Federation of Teachers, the California School Boards Association, California State University Sacramento, the California Teachers Association, and the Independent California Colleges and Universities Council on the Education of Teachers for their support.

Friday morning kicked off with the President's Networking Breakfast, sponsored by the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, the University of California Office of the President, and the California State University Office of the Chancellor Department of Teacher Education & Public School Programs. Other Friday morning highlights included two workshops on accreditation by staff from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. We are especially grateful for their attendance and support on a state holiday.

Friday also featured CCTE's first-ever research roundtables and a research-focused poster session that included special presentations celebrating Cesar Chavez by California State University Sacramento credential candidates and information about the work of CCTE's Intersegmental Collaboration around preparation of cooperating teachers.

We would again like to thank the annual co-sponsors of CCTE—California State University Long Beach, California State University Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University, the University of Redlands, and the California State University Collaborative for the Advancement of Linked Learning—for helping make our first SPAN Conference a success. Special thanks to the Thompson Policy Institute for Disability and Autism at Chapman University for its support of the CCTE board meeting that Wednesday.

The SPAN Planning Committee has already met to review evaluation feedback, coordinate dates around other conferences (e.g., AERA, CABE), and begin organizing for next year. Mark your calendars for March 8th and 9th for SPAN 2018 in Sacramento! We also invite you to join us in planning and to watch for future updates in *CCNews*.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you all in San Diego in October at the CCTE Fall 2017 Conference, which will follow our traditional three-day format with a focus on the theme "Equity and Social Justice."

Along with Karen Lafferty the other co-chairs of the CCTE SPAN Planning Committee are Cindy Grutzik of California State University Long Beach and Pia Wong of California State University Sacramento.