



The Wisconsin Institutions of Higher Education Conference
Advancing the agenda around "quality matters" in the preparation of educators
November 2, 2006 – Chula Vista Resort

Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted. **Albert Einstein**

Guiding Principles

The following principles are offered to guide our work:

1. The central purpose of engaging in meaningful accountability practices is to **improve student learning, PK-16**. Student learning is recognized and respected as more than performance on a single, high-stakes assessment test.
2. Accountability practices will serve to **create a culture of evidence directed towards continuous improvement** in initial educator preparation as well as on-going, professional development¹. There is no intent to prescribe or endorse a particular methodology (e.g., value-add design methods), but to embrace multiple methods for sound assessment (i.e., both quantitative and qualitative).
3. We seek to identify compelling research questions leading to the generation, collection, and use of relevant data (i.e., both qualitative and quantitative) that will serve to **improve practice, influence policy, and inform accreditation and program approval**. Methods of data collection will focus on understanding the relationships between teacher preparation and teacher practices and teacher practices and student learning (again, “learning” is viewed as a complex, dynamic process not defined by what is most easily measured by a test).
4. The dissemination of relevant, aggregated data will **provide a profile of Wisconsin’s educator preparation practices** without unnecessary comparison and ranking of institutions or programs. We recognize our obligation to various publics and strive to operate as partners within our diverse communities.
5. The processes associated with **accountability should be owned and controlled by the profession** and reflect a unified voice around accountability for the purpose of improvement.
6. We will work with our IHE colleagues in a spirit of **all-university involvement** and in partnership with PK-12 and relevant state agencies with a commitment to **shared responsibility** for quality teaching and learning.

¹ Reference includes both traditional and non-traditional or alternative educational preparation programs.