

## FATE UPDATE

November 2003

Talk about successful Partnerships in education! Participants in the annual FATE conference certainly had plenty to say last October 2-4. Over 100 teacher educators met in Fort Lauderdale to share, discuss, and ask pertinent questions while attending excellent conference sessions geared to the theme “Showcasing Successful Partnerships in Education.” Keynoter, Dr. Richard Kunkel, who is currently Dean of the College of Education at Florida State University, “showcased” essential elements of successful Professional Development School partnerships. Lunch-time-listeners were provided with many solid pointers for developing viable partnerships. Dean Kunkel offered good things to keep in mind and apply to the many partnership opportunities that we, as teacher educators, are presented with during the course of any given year. I am sure that we all went home with one or two relevant ideas tucked away that proved to be useful immediately—or will prove useful in a future partnership endeavor. This year’s FATE conference provided a great opportunity to take time off from more routine professional activities to learn from our colleagues--such an important part of nurturing ourselves professionally!

If you are a FATE member who was unable to attend the conference, you can still reap professional benefits from many of the conference sessions. Right now presenters from October’s conference are feverishly working on submitting their papers for review and acceptance for publication. Members will soon be able to access the conference proceedings by visiting the new FATE website at [www.fate1.org](http://www.fate1.org), and accessing the most current FATE eJournal. (Conference presenters interested in having their sessions included in the conference proceedings should email submissions to [fateproposal@yahoo.com](mailto:fateproposal@yahoo.com) no later than **Saturday, November 22nd.**)

In the true spirit of making FATE all that it can be, one session during the annual conference was dedicated to regional meetings. During the twenty minute session, members were updated on planned organizational changes. Revisions

to the FATE Bylaws were discussed, participants were acquainted with the five FATE (DOE) Regions, and new FATE leadership positions of Regional Director were introduced and explained. The Board is recruiting K-12 Regional Directors and College and University Regional Directors for each of the five FATE regions (panhandle, crown, east central, west central, and south). Several members have already stepped up to the plate and volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Director for their region. Once the bylaw revisions are approved, Regional Directors will take on the task of enhancing membership and participation in FATE within their region, as well as representing their region at Board meetings. Several slots for Regional Director remain open. If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact one of the FATE officers. The responsibilities of a Regional Director are outlined in detail in the revised bylaws. And this presents a great segue way to a topic that is near and dear to my heart!

As you must have gathered by now, past and present members of the FATE Board have been planning and working for several months to update, strengthen, and streamline the FATE bylaws. A copy of the partial revisions made the rounds at the fall conference, along with a request for input from the membership. The most current version of the revised document will be posted on the website ( [www.fate1.org](http://www.fate1.org) ) this week for you to scrutinize. The Board is counting on each member to read the revised document and make suggestions for final revisions. Please send your comments through the link provided on the site by Friday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. After this process is complete we will proceed to a vote of acceptance by the membership. The next step is to submit the revised document to ATE for approval. I urge you to participant in this important process!

Good news! FATE is growing! Our membership topped 100 during the conference. The growth makes FATE eligible for increased representation at the national delegate assembly (we gain two additional delegates) during the ATE annual conference. One of our goals for this year is to continue to grow our membership. We would like to include more people from the K-12 sector who are involved in teacher education. My personal challenge to each of you is to recruit at least one new member this year to help FATE reach this goal.

In summary, FATE is off to a great start this year with a successful conference. With the help and participation of all of our members we can look forward to continued growth and progress. There are many opportunities for involvement in FATE--at many different levels. FATE is **your** professional organization—decide to get involved this year! Contact me, or one of the other FATE Board members (contact information provided on the FATE website at [www.fate1.org](http://www.fate1.org) if you want to be actively involved and would like to know more about the available options. It promises to be a busy and productive year!

Susan Graf, President

Florida Association of Teacher Educators