

The ATE Inquiry Initiative Task Force

Appointed by Rachelle Rogers—ATE President 2022-2023

Co-Chairs: Audra Parker, Kristien Zenkov, & Doug Rogers

Membership: Heidi Bacon, Tom Conway, Lori Fulton, Aiyana Henry, Tara Plachowski, Barbara Purdum-Cassidy, Greer Richardson, Kim Sloan, Carla Tanguay, & Liz Ward

In 2020, the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) embarked on a strategic plan to be a leading organization in advancing improved outcomes in teacher education through scholarship and evidence-based preparation and practice. This work began at the onset of a pandemic that would magnify significant opportunity gaps and inequities in education as well as push educators to their breaking points. As part of the strategic plan, ATE leadership organized three working groups focused on three pillars: (1) organizational sustainability; (2) drive greater impact; and (3) expand our footprint. One goal that emerged from the Drive Greater Impact workgroup was to collaboratively employ a state, national, and partnership-driven research agenda, with implications for professional educators across career lifespans. In 2021, the ATE membership approved the strategic plan including the identified goals put forth by the workgroups.

At the founding of ATE, the summer conference was a “working and renewal” opportunity, with participants stepping aside from their day-to-day “busyness” to work collaboratively on pressing scholarly and practitioner issues. As ATE entered its second century, the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the inequalities in schools. ATE responded by creating the ATE Inquiry Initiative, a three-year collaborative inquiry for professional educators (scholars and practitioners) to collectively examine a common focus: closing the “opportunity gaps” created by the disparities within society. The Inquiry Initiative returns ATE to its roots and will provide participants with unique structures, processes, and opportunities to engage around this common inquiry focus.

The ATE Inquiry Initiative Task Force is established to provide continuity and sustainability to the Association’s efforts across the three-year initial cycle and beyond.

The Task Force is charged with establishing guiding resources to support and sustain the initial and ongoing implementation of the Inquiry Initiative, including but not limited to the following:

- Document guidelines for reviewing the Inquiry Initiative Profile.
- Document the three-year curriculum for Inquiry Initiative cohorts. The curriculum will provide guidelines/agendas for meetings at the summer conferences, the annual meetings, and between-conference activities.
- Document critical roles and responsibilities in collaborating with summer conference and annual meeting program chairs.
- Document the three-year timeline for events and responsibilities for collaborating with all stakeholders.
- Document additional insights and tasks that evolve during the initial implementation.
- Present recommendations for sustaining the Inquiry Initiative to the ATE Board of Directors.
- Study the development and impact of a collaborative research model for organizations.