Title II HEA Reauthorization
Primarily silence; however, Beth Doll shared the following information that she unearthed. The USDE publication id included in the Institution Packet---and it includes the following statement from USDE: www.ed.gov/teacherprep

We have formally submitted a supplemental Notice of Proposed Rule Making to the Office of Management and Budget for review that will allow us to collect more public comments specifically on distance education as it relates to teacher preparation. Following the Office of Management and Budget review, we will publish the supplemental NPRM in the Federal Register for public comment.

AQuESTT
AQuESTT Needs Improvement Schools
Institution Packets include a copy of information about schools identified as Needs Improvement in the AQuESTT process. There are four classifications: Urban/Metro, Small Community, Native American, and Demographically Transitioning Schools. Perhaps an interesting discussion in your institution about collaborative work in these schools as they consider their continuous improvement options could take place using this information.

AQuESTT Conference – April 18-19, Kearney
A good opportunity to interact with PK-12 administrators and staff – as well as update on NDE directions. Registration information and the agenda: http://ndeconference.education.ne.gov/cf_Conference_2016.aspx?CID=9

AQuESTT Resources
The Intersection of the Six Tenets of AQuESTT and Education Preparation: http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/Meetings/NACTE/NACTE16-0317/AQuESTT-EdPrep.pdf and is provided as a file with the March, 2016 NACTE Notes. Your input to this document is welcome.

AQuESTT information is found at: http://aquestt.com/, including the “Nebraska Public Schools At-A-Glance 2016” found in the Institution Packet.

Community College/Educator Preparation Coursework
NDE is going to take the opportunity to assess the status of educator preparation courses being offered by community colleges – and the extent to which those courses are accepted/acceptable to educator preparation programs.

Principles for Teacher Support and Evaluation Systems (CCSSO)
Document included in the Institution Packet. In March the State Board approved the Teacher/Principal Committee Recommendations: (http://www.education.ne.gov/sbssummary/March_2016/5_8_1_FinalReportOfTPStudyCommittee_0.pdf) The CCSSO paper is very consistent with the Board’s recommendations. This work is very consistent with Rule 20 (Teacher) and Rule 24 (administrator) expectations. http://ccso.org/Documents/2016/Principles%20for%20Teacher%20Support%20and%20Evaluation%20Systems.pdf
First Year Teacher Employer Survey
987 Surveys were sent to Principals on March 14th. The plan is to provide institutions (contact will go to the Head of Teacher Education) with a list of non-responders around April 20th. Our hope is that you provide a personal request to non-responders to complete the survey by the close date of April 22. A number of system improvements have been put into place this year to gather information on approximately 1,000 teachers who are completing their 1st full year of teaching on a regular certificate in 2015-16.

Educators Rising
I understand that all Nebraska teacher preparation programs were represented at the recent conference! I spent only a short time at the conference, but the enthusiasm and energy of nearly 200 high school students was a real treat to experience!

RULE 22- Master Teacher
Salary Bonuses ($5,000) will be distributed to 67 Nebraska teachers who hold NBPTS certification in March. We have 3 individuals who have applied for registration assistance (up to $1,975). There are a couple of institutions thinking about developing programs to support teachers seeking to go through the NBPTS process.

CAEP Training Opportunities
The call for applications to be a Site Visitor for CAEP closes March 18th. It is our understanding that individuals selected will be invited to a training event (such as Kansas City, July 17-20, although there are other sites). CAEP will pay expenses for selected applicants.

NDE will also be scheduling a ‘state training’ later this year or early 2017. This will be the same training as the national site visitor training except that participants will not be eligible to do out of state training. These individuals will be the pool NDE draws from to participate in accreditation visits as state team members. Although NDE hopes to defray some of the participation costs, it is likely there will be some cost to participants.

World Language Colloquium
Janine Theiler, NDE World Language Consultant, indicates that it was a very successful statewide meeting which brought together practicing teachers, community and educator preparation to talk about improving world language instruction outcomes. Summary of Colloquium is in the Institutional Packet.

NCTQ Report
You received an email on January 25th regarding the 2015 NCTQ Report. We improved this year – to a D! There was no action from the media or State Board. There is some indication that NCTQ is turning their attention to Principal preparation – diversifying to support their diminishing impact???

Title II IPRC
Absolute deadline is April 30th. As a result of the recent webinar hosted by Westat, we anticipate no changes in the narrative portions of the Report for this year. They indicated that the test data will be uploaded mid-April. (Reminder that Praxis II pass rates are not included until next year.)
The NDE Guidance for the 2016 Title II IPRC report has been updated and posted to the NDE website (http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/TopPages/TitleII.html). No significant changes from last year.

A link to the document has also been added to the information in the State Guidance page of the IPRC reporting system. You can access the State Guidance page by clicking on the “State Guidance” menu item on the left side menu after you have logged in.

**Rule 24 Matrices / NDE 20-004 Form**

You will notice some slight revisions in the Rule 24 matrices. (However, NDE does not expect all institutions to re-do all of their matrices.) A complete set of matrices must be submitted to NDE prior to the institution’s off-site folio review/state approval year. Institutions do need to complete new matrices for all Rule 24 endorsements that have been revised effective August 1, 2016 if those programs are offered at the institution: Art, Health Sciences, Middle Level Education, Music, and Vocal Music PLUS any endorsement programs that are new or have been revised at the institution since last year. Remember that matrices include only the minimum requirements for an endorsement program. Summary of the Middle Level Endorsement and Guidelines is included in the institutional Packet. Note that the Middle Level matrix is a two-part matrix. The NDE 20-004 Form which you should have received in early February is due to NDE by May 20 along with the matrices for new and revised programs. Matrices and the NDE 20-004 form are posted on the website: http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/TopPages/BoardApproval.html.

**State Approval Guidance Manual/updates**

Some clarification language regarding Specialized Professional Associations has been added on pages 9 and 10; pages 13 and 14 has added language about the Nebraska Clinical Practice Evaluation, and Rule 20 Attachment M has been significantly revised. No other changes are expected. The updated manual is posted on the website: http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/IHE/ProgramApproval/StateReview-Folio/StateReviewManual.pdf

**School Counselor Endorsement Ad Hoc**

Ad Hoc meeting was held January 27. All institutions (other than Grace) that offer the School Counselor endorsement were represented. The ad hoc committee is recommending removing the two-year teaching requirement and has proposed two options for those wanting to become school counselors. The endorsement will not be presented to NCTE until the April Executive Committee meeting and will possibly be included in the June NCTE Agenda. Preliminary discussion will be held during the March NCTE Standing Committee meetings.

**2016-17 Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program**

http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/TopPages/EETP.html

$825,000 total allocation – Applicants can apply for funds of $175 per credit hour up to a maximum of $3000.

**New in 2016-17:**

1. The criterion for eligibility has been expanded to include a **graduate course of study leading to an additional endorsement in a shortage area along with the current degree program criteria of:** a degree in a shortage area, a degree in Curriculum and Instruction, a degree in a
subject area in which a secular teaching endorsement is already held, or a degree in a subject area that will result in an additional secular teaching endorsement not considered a shortage area which the superintendent of the school district or head administrator of a nonpublic school believes will be beneficial to the students of the school district or school.

2. Loan forgiveness timeline for recipients receiving funds for the first time on or after July 1, 2016:
   - forgive $1500 at the end of the 3rd year of teaching and each consecutive year after completion of the program, or
   - if teaching in a low-income school/very sparse district forgive $1500 at the end of the 4th year and $3000 each consecutive year after completion of the program after that.

   (Loan forgiveness timeline for recipients who received funds for the first time prior to July 1, 2016 remains the same – forgive $3000 at the end of the 3rd year of teaching and each consecutive year after completion of the program, or forgive $6000 each year if teaching in a low-income school/very sparse district.)

**NDE Contact Lists**
Just a reminder that we try to keep current contact lists – if you know of changes and/or if you find that we are not appropriately communicating with someone, PLEASE be in touch to request changes. We generally include the ‘obvious’ people on the appropriate list, but we are happy to add others upon request. The NACTE list is maintained by NACTE – so changes should also be communicated with NACTE leadership. NDE generally does not communicate through the NACTE list, but rather uses our lists (such as Heads of Teacher Education, Heads and Certification Officers, etc.).

**National Technology Plan**
Not sure I shared this with you. May be of interest/support as you consider technology skills for candidates. [http://tech.ed.gov/netp/](http://tech.ed.gov/netp/)