



The State University  
of New York

Nancy L. Zimpher  
Chancellor

State University Plaza  
Albany, New York 12246

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

April 20, 2011

Ms. Kate Walsh  
President  
NCTQ  
1420 New York Ave., NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Walsh,

I am responding to your letter of March 17, not because I feel that a response will have an impact on NCTQ's methods, actions, or conclusions, but because I would not want silence on SUNY's part to imply agreement with NCTQ's position.

While I appreciate your statement that public programs preparing school teachers are duty bound to participate in serious, reputable efforts to improve the quality of information available to the public, I still cannot agree with your methods or the prevailing presumption that public universities should comply, without question, with NCTQ's ground rules.

Urged as I was to reject NCTQ's process out of hand, we responded that a dialogue was possible if NCTQ was willing to open its evaluation process to consultation and review. However, in your response, you chose to mischaracterize and reject without exception all contrary positions or requests for collaboration or revision of measures. You also argued that we must comply with whatever NCTQ dictates simply because we are a public entity, requiring that we direct our staff to compile the information you demand so that you can rank us against your chosen standards or discredit us if we don't fully comply. Serving the public does not mean that we must direct our resources as any independent entity demands of us nor does it obligate us to cooperate with self-appointed judges who are convinced they have written the ultimate criteria for evaluation. We continue to maintain that we find NCTQ's methods to be deeply flawed and unfair, and, as such, cannot in good conscience participate in the study.

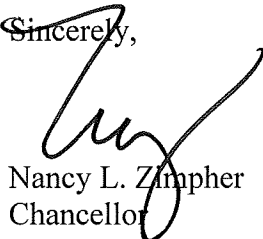
The teacher education programs in the State University of New York have demonstrated that they do not shrink from public accountability, as they fully comply with the extensive accountability and reporting requirements of the New York State Board of Regents, the New York State Education Department, the U.S. Department of Education, and federally recognized teacher-education accreditation bodies.

To Learn  
To Search  
To Serve

the Power of 

To enable our teacher-education programs to focus their precious time and resources on benefitting our students and the people of New York State, I will inform them that they need not respond to your requests for information.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Zimpher  
Chancellor

NLZ:jfn

cc: Mr. Brian Kelly, Editor, U.S. News & World Report  
Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor, California State University  
Dr. William Kirwan, Chancellor, University System of Maryland  
Dr. David Lavalley, Sr. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Provost, SUNY