



September 29, 2012

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the Fall 2012 Joint Conference of the Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities (TECSCU) and The Renaissance Group (TRG), where the *“The Proof of Effective Partnerships: Educators Meeting the Challenges and Opportunities of the 21st Century”* will be proudly presented. Once again TRG and TECSCU have chosen to pool their talents, experiences and resources to demonstrate the positive influence and impact P-20 partnerships have on the preparation of outstanding educators for all of America’s schools.

Our member institutions and their P-12 school district partners have been credited with preparing approximately 78% of our nation’s teachers. As such, it is only fitting that we have selected the “partnership” theme for this year’s professional journey. The Fall 2012 Joint Conference, in addition to showcasing effective partnerships from various colleges, universities and P-12 school districts, also resonates that very important partnership between TECSCU and TRG, as well as those we cultivate with Colleges/Schools of Arts and Sciences. During the next three and one half days, we will examine the proof of our partnering effectiveness with 24 presentations from member institutions. Furthermore, the keynote presentations on Sunday and Monday evenings will introduce partnership innovations that will, hopefully, take us to the edge of our current comfort zones to conceptualize and embrace leading transformational partnerships across the P-20 education spectrum.

Within the conference structure, we have also endeavored to weave, enrich, and illuminate another thread of partnership, that which links us to the policy arena. TRG and TECSCU members have always acknowledged the importance of their presence and voice at both the state and federal policy levels, and their representatives at member institutions have always considered this issue a most important priority.

We promise you will be informed, challenged, motivated, inspired and celebrated. We only ask that you participate for the entire program in order to receive maximum benefit from the partnership experience. Best wishes for a most productive and enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

John Counts, President
The Renaissance Group

Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, President
Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities