Statement Regarding Georgia Professional Standards Commission Vote to Remove Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Language from Teacher Training Program Standards

June 14, 2023

The recent vote (without discussion) by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to remove the terms “diversity, equity and inclusion” from rules that guide Georgia universities with teacher training programs is part of a growing movement in education to pause, or even dismantle diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. This is a reaction to the growing anti-equity effort reflected by policies and actions seeking to suppress independent thinking and critical analysis. This pushback may have become especially apparent during the racial unrest that followed the killing of George Floyd in 2020, but it started long before that moment, and it wasn’t just by happenstance.

Instead of moving the needle forward, many leaders want to roll the clock back.

With the increasing population of students of color in Georgia’s K-12 system, it is critical that teacher education programs understand, emphasize and address the problems of racial inequities, and prepare teachers to serve students from diverse backgrounds and meet the needs of 21st century learners. Not supporting these efforts by removing inclusive language from teacher training standards is counterintuitive to that.

To achieve a future where prosperity can be had by all, we must be prepared at every level to dismantle inequities in all forms, uplift everyone and prepare them for what is an interconnected society and economy, and we must continue to support practices that lead to equitable outcomes.