Handbook of Teacher Education

Globalization, Standards and Professionalism in Times of Change

Tony Townsend and Richard Bates (Eds.)

Der Springer

HANDBOOK OF TEACHER EDUCATION

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Globalization, Standards and Professionalism in Times of Change

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A C.I.P. Catalogue record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN-10 1-4020-4773-8 (ebook) ISBN-13 978-1-4020-4773-2 (ebook) ISBN-10 1-4020-4772-X (HB) ISBN-13 978-1-4020-4772-5 (HB)

> Published by Springer, P.O. Box 17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

> > www.springer.com

Printed on acid-free paper

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Printed in the Netherlands.

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PREFACE

This book has its origins in conversations that started when the International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET) and the Australian Teacher Education Association (ATEA) jointly agreed to co-sponsor a World Assembly of Teacher Educators in Melbourne in July 2003, hosted by Monash University. The editors of this book were not only intimately involved in the management of the conference but had also been key figures in the Associations involved. Tony Townsend had been secretary, and on the national board of the South Pacific Association for Teacher Education (SPATE), which later became ATEA and had previously managed a SPATE conference in Frankston, Australia, in the 1980s. He is currently the President of ICET and now works at Florida Atlantic University. Richard Bates has been a long time board member of ATEA and is currently President of that organization. He is also a Board member of ICET.

The International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET) was founded in 1953 for the purpose of emphasizing international cooperation in educational development in order to improve the quality of teacher education as well as to expand global educational opportunities for people in teacher education. Since that time, ICET has developed into an international association of practitioners of teacher education, policy and decision-makers in education, government and business dedicated to global development through education. ICET is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and participates in NGO meetings and other UNESCO-sponsored conferences around the world.

Scholars, administrator, practitioners from universities, colleges, departments and institutes of education as well as members of government ministries, the teaching profession and business leaders that are interested in educational development participate in ICET and share their ideas, research and experience with other professionals from around the world. The main goals of ICET are:

- To foster international cooperation in improving the quality of preparation of teachers, administrators and other education specialists through the development of national, regional and international networks.
- To promote cooperation between higher education institutions, government and the private sector to develop a worldwide network of resources for innovative programs in international educational development.
- To provide an international forum for the exchange of information and the discussion of issues and trends in education and development.
- To assist educational personnel training institutions all over the world to respond to the need for improved facilities, diversified curricula and alternative and nontraditional educational methods.

PREFACE

The Australian Teacher Education Association (ATEA) is the major professional association for teacher educators in Australia. The mission of the Australian Teacher Education Association is to promote:

- The preservice and continuing education of teachers in all forms and contexts;
- teacher education as central in the educational enterprise of the nation;
- research on teacher education as a core endeavour. The Association enacts this mission through several key strategies, namely:
- to foster improvement in initial teacher education;
- to engage in national advocacy for teacher education;
- to promote and support the teaching profession;
- to form strong links with individuals and organisations involved in educational change;
- to improve the nature, quality and availability of professional development for teachers educators, and
- to promote and disseminate research, ideas and practices, innovation and evaluation in teacher education.

The Melbourne Conference was a good example of ICET and ATEA at their best. With a partnership between an international and a national association, it was able to bring key speakers and delegates from all over the world to consider its theme 'Teachers as Leaders: Teacher Education for a Global Profession'. The keynote speakers and the papers contained topics of such interest that we felt that it was timely to gather together a series of perspectives of critical issues facing teacher education at this time. This idea was supported by Michel Lokhorst, then editor of Kluwer-Springer and has been subsequently been followed through by Astrid Noordermeer of Springer. The editors would like to acknowledge both people for their support, without which this book could not have been published.

In addition, we dedicate this book to the thousands of teacher educators around the world, many of whom are feeling under various types of pressure, from the community and the government, from lack of funding and other resources and from an increasingly difficult task that faces them, for their sustained commitment to developing young people into the teaching force necessary to confront a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world.

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