Frequently Asked Questions on Proposed Individual Affiliate Membership

Why is AACTE proposing an individual affiliate membership category?

- AACTE currently offers institutional and affiliate memberships. The proposal would create a way for educator preparation professionals who are not employed or enrolled through a member institution to remain connected to AACTE.
- The proposal aims to engage retirees, graduates and alumni, state agency leaders, consultants, and other professionals; retain expertise and mentoring connections; and broaden the community.

What is the proposed bylaw change?

- It would establish an Individual Affiliate Membership category for people engaged in educator preparation or related fields who do not qualify for regular or affiliate membership through a member institution or membership eligible institution.
- Examples of who would qualify for the individual affiliate membership would be retirees, alumni, and professional individual designations. Applicants would need to demonstrate commitment to teacher education or improving educator preparation and meet any other criteria set by the Board of Directors.

How would this change benefit the educator preparation community?

- The individual affiliate membership would offer a continued connection to AACTE events, resources, networks, and professional development for people outside institutional and affiliate membership. It would create opportunities for networking and mentorship across career stages.

Who could apply?

- An individual who meets the commitment and other board criteria and does not otherwise qualify for regular or affiliate membership through a member institution or membership eligible institution could apply. AACTE staff would determine eligibility through the application process.

Could a dean or faculty member at a university apply?

- Probably not. If the person qualifies through a member institution or membership eligible institution, this individual category would not be available. Adjuncts or Emeriti who are no longer affiliated with a member eligible institution could possibly apply depending on individual circumstances.

Could students, recent graduates, and Holmes alumni apply?

- Students would qualify for membership through their member institution or member eligible institution. They would not qualify for the individual affiliate membership.
- Graduates and Holmes alumni may qualify if they are no longer affiliated with a member institution or a member eligible institution. Each applicant would need to satisfy the criteria, including the institutional eligibility test.

Could retired educators join?

- Retired is a possible designation. A retired member who has retired from primary employment, is not working full time, and has an interest or background in educator preparation could be eligible.

How would someone apply and when would they hear back?

- An individual would submit a formal application, as well as a statement showing commitment to improving educator preparation. AACTE staff would confirm that the applicant does not otherwise qualify for regular or affiliate membership through a member or member eligible institution. Once eligibility is confirmed the individual would submit payment for the annual membership.
- AACTE staff designated by the President/CEO would review the application. The applicant would be notified of acceptance or rejection within 15 business days of AACTE receiving it.

What would individual affiliate members be able to do?

- They could attend membership meetings and express views on issues under consideration. They would have access to events, resources, networks, and professional development at the member rate.

Could individual affiliate members vote or serve on the Board of Directors?

- No. Individual affiliate members would be nonvoting members and they would not be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors or a board related committee.

How long would membership continue?

- An accepted member would continue as an individual affiliate member, subject to paying annual dues and meeting membership criteria. The membership would terminate if the individual does not pay the annual dues or fails to meet the established criteria. AACTE has the discretion to suspend or terminate membership for other reasons. Members could withdraw at any time but would still owe dues in arrears.

When would individual memberships be available?

- These proposed bylaws changes would simply create the option for AACTE to offer an **Individual Membership** category in the future. If approved, the specific membership structure, eligibility requirements, pricing, and availability would be developed separately by the Board and staff. As with our existing organizational membership model, these details may evolve over time in response to member needs, market conditions, and strategic priorities. The vote is solely to authorize the membership category within the bylaws, not to establish its final terms or pricing.