Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education has been accepted into the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education’s (AACTE) first Networked Improvement Community (NIC). The NIC is aimed at increasing the diversity of the nation’s teacher candidate pool by focusing on recruitment of more Black and Hispanic men into teacher preparation programs.

The NIC is one of the programs AACTE has launched as part of The Innovation Exchange; an initiative to support innovation and speed the pace of change in university-based educator preparation. The Exchange will serve as a forum to share experiences and findings to address the most urgent issues of student achievement, curriculum reform and educator preparation program advancement.

Dean Bristor’s application on behalf of the College of Education was one of ten selected from over 50 AACTE member institutions to participate in NIC. Preference was given to those applicants that clearly and convincingly described the contributions they plan to make to the overall work of the NIC and to the profession.

Updates on the work of this NIC will be posted in the coming months and over the course of the next three years through the AACTE website http://theinnovationexchange.net/ and the AACTE blog EdPrep Matters http://edprepmatters.net/. The goal is to ensure that the innovations that emerge from the work of this small group will be shared with the entire AACTE membership.