



## U.S. Secretary of Education cites Alverno as a 'shining star'

In a speech at Teachers College of Columbia University last October in which U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan criticized teacher education programs for doing an inadequate job preparing teachers for the classroom, he singled out Alverno College as a shining star; a school that does an exemplary job in training and preparing teachers for the classroom.

According to his prepared remarks, Duncan said, "Alverno College, a Catholic women's college in Milwaukee, requires a rigorous field experience in the public schools and has faculty and

local principals assess videotapes of student teachers. Eighty-five percent of Alverno graduates are still in the classroom five years after graduation, an extremely high retention rate."

In his speech, Duncan cited a handful of other schools — large universities, Ivy League schools and liberal art colleges — noting that "it doesn't take an elite university and a big endowment to create a good teacher education program."

He stressed the elements of strong teacher preparation programs are ones that are "coherent, up-to-date, research-based and

provide students with subject mastery... And these programs have a shared vision of what constitutes good teaching and best practices — including a single-minded focus on improving student learning and using data to inform instruction."

Duncan said many of the nation's 1,450 schools, colleges and departments of education are doing "a mediocre job" of preparing teachers for the realities of the 21st century classroom. He said teacher preparation programs are "in need of evolutionary change — not evolutionary tinkering."

