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Date: Tue, 30 Jul 2002 17:04:57 -0400
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July 2002
Urgent Changes Needed to Improve Teacher Quality
    =93There is a need =96 indeed an urgency =96 to do things differentl=
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Michael Poliakoff, president of the National Council on Teacher Quality. =
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or subscribe online by visiting http://www.statesnews.org/Marketing/Spect=
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Reprint permissions may be obtained by contacting Susan Haney at (859) 24=
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Improving Teaching
    The last several years have seen states develop a large number of po-
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and programs to address the issue of teaching quality. These include meas=
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to recruit and retain teachers more successfully, prepare them more sound=
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for their continuing professional growth.=A0
    Michael Allen, program director for the Education Commission of the =
States, =20
believes that =93what works is never only a matter of a particular kind o=
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or program but also depends upon the specific details of the program=92s =
design, =20
its political and financial support, the skill and determination of those-
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according to Grover J. Whitehurst, Assistant Secretary for Education Research=20

substantial=20 variation in performance among professionals delivering the same service = is seen=20

and Improvement for the U.S. Department of Education. =93In other fields,=

as a problem to be fixed. For example, we would not tolerate a system in = which=20 airline pilots varied appreciably in their ability to accomplish their ta=

sks=20 successfully, for who would want to be a passenger on the plane with the = pilot=20

who is at the 10th percentile on safe landings?=94 Whitehurst continues, = =93The American=20 system of public education is built on what Richard Elmore has called the=

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and teach what they wish as they wish. The graphs from the value-added st= udies=20

tell us what happens when a child has the bad luck to be assigned to a te=acher=20 whose approach doesn't work. Variation in teacher effectiveness needs to =

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be reduced=20 substantially if our schools are going to perform at high levels.=94=20 The full article, "Improving Teacher Quality" appears in the Summer 2002 = issue=20 of=A0
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Ensuring Quality Education=A0

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and complexity from state regulation of other professions. Although state= boards,=20

for example in law and medicine, require demonstration of competency, the state=20

is not directly responsible for delivering legal and medical services. Inthese=20

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The Summer 2002 issue of Spectrum: The Journal of State Government include es a=20

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include new demographic divisions, a new compact on adult offender superveision=20

and Nevada's successful efforts at collecting debt.

Recently, The Council of State Governments launched a national mission tohelp=20

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issues that might have significant impact on state priorities and policymeaking.=20

CSG's Trends Forecast Report is an effort to provide foresight for state = officials=20

across the nation. The information in this monthly report is condensed from CSG's=20

quarterly journal, Spectrum: The Journal of State Government. For more information=20

on the contents of this report or Spectrum, please contact CSG, PO Box 11= 910,=20

Lexington, KY 40578-1910; (859) 244-8220; or alindon@csg.org. If you wo=

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like to subscribe to Spectrum, click here.
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right: 0; margin-bottom: 0" color=3D"#800000">
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