



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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CONTACT:  
MARILYN ERRETT  
[media@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:media@ctc.ca.gov)

### **Commission's Accrediting Committee Elects Co-Chairs**

SACRAMENTO – The Committee on Accreditation (COA) elected two of its members to serve as co-chairs on the committee for 2009-10. The COA is a statutory committee appointed by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission). The COA is charged with the task of deciding on the initial and continuing accreditation of educator preparation institutions and programs, determining the comparability of national or alternative program standards with California standards of educator preparation, and bringing accreditation recommendations before the Commission for approval. The new co-chairs for 2009-10 are **Dr. Gary Kinsey** and **Dr. Nancy Watkins**, who previously served one term as co-chair in 2008-09.

**Dr. Kinsey** has a breadth of experience in K-12 education which ranges from high school teaching to serving as a school administrator. He joined Cal Poly Pomona in 2001 and is currently an Associate Dean for the College of Education and Integrative Studies where he is responsible for the program's accreditation process and the implementation of the California Teaching Performance Assessment. He also serves as Professor in the Department of Education and as the university's liaison to the BTSA/Induction programs in the university service area. He earned both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from California State University, Fresno, a second Master's degree from the University of San Francisco, and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Southern California. He holds a Single Subject Teaching Credential and an Administrative Services Credential. Kinsey is past president of the California Association of Professors of Educational Administration and current President Elect for the National Counsel of Professors of Educational Administration. Dr. Kinsey was recently recognized as the 2008 California Professor of Education of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators.

**Dr. Watkins** is a K-12 educator with 21 years of experience. She holds a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Science and is currently teaching high school in Orange County, CA. In addition to teaching in public schools, Dr. Watkins is adjunct faculty teaching educational policy courses at several Southern California colleges. Watkins

earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, a Master's degree in Public Policy from Claremont Graduate University, and a joint Educational Leadership Doctorate from University of California, Irvine and California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Watkins specializes in educational policy and teacher leadership. Dr. Watkins has taken on leadership roles at the school site and district level, as well as serving as a facilitator for professional development, chair of the Social Science department, and coordinator of community service for students. She has been honored as Teacher of the Year for both her school site and district. Dr. Watkins is a Fulbright Scholar and a presenter at state Social Science conferences.

“Accreditation” is the approval process that all educator preparation programs must undergo in order to prepare licensed educators in California. The educator preparation accreditation system focuses on the demonstrated competence of California's educators. The system features ongoing data collection and a 7-year cycle of activities, including at least one site visit. The COA can determine at any point if program intervention or assistance is needed. This accreditation process is designed to assure the public and the Legislature that these programs are effectively training school personnel to function in the credential areas for which they are being prepared. Evidence of the accreditation system's success is the continuing viability of programs that produce effective educators for California's students.

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