



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2010

CONTACT:

MARILYN ERRETT
media@ctc.ca.gov or (916) 445-7912

New Programs Prepare Teachers of Students with Autism

SACRAMENTO – The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission), through its appointed accrediting body, the Committee on Accreditation (COA), approved ten programs to offer preparation for the new Autism Spectrum Disorder added authorization. The regulatory process for this added authorization in Special Education was completed in July 2009. The eleven preparation programs recently approved are the first to apply since the Commission approved the revised program standards in October 2009.

Need for an authorization in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) was highlighted during the activities of the Commission's Special Education Work Group (Work Group). The Work Group was appointed to review the structure and requirements of the Education Specialist and Other Related Services credentials. A number of legislative bills were introduced in the years that followed, further supporting the evidence of need for an added authorization for Education Specialist credential holders serving students with ASD. These programs will provide important and necessary preparation for Education Specialist credential holders in order that they might better serve their ASD student populations.

The following programs submitted written proposals to the Commission addressing their ability to meet the preconditions and standards adopted by the Commission for the ASD added authorizations: **Azusa Pacific University, Brandman University, California State Universities of Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, and San Bernardino, Fresno Pacific University, National University, Project Impact, San Diego State University, Touro University, and Ventura County Office of Education.** These programs were deemed to have demonstrated an appropriate program of professional preparation. Candidates who successfully complete ASD preparation through the following programs will be eligible for recommendation to the Commission by the program for the ASD added authorization.