



PRESS RELEASE

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Commission's Accrediting Committee Elects Co-Chairs for 2011-12

SACRAMENTO – The Committee on Accreditation (COA) elected two of its members to serve as co-chairs leading a busy schedule of educator preparation program data review and site visits for 2011-12. 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 accreditation of educator preparation 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. This year's co-chairs are **Dr. Anne K. Jones** and **Dr. Nancy Watkins**, who previously served two terms as co-chair.

Dr. Jones is the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs and Student Affairs in the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) where she has also been the Director of Teacher Education since 2007. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Teacher Education from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from University of California, Irvine and UCLA. Dr. Jones holds a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and, in her early career, taught elementary school and in full inclusion programs for students with severe disabilities. She has an extensive research background that includes study of performance assessments for teacher candidates. Dr. Jones is currently involved in the design and implementation of a comprehensive information system to collect and manage data for teacher preparation programs. In addition to her work on the COA, she has generously provided leadership and advice on several of the Commission's workgroups.

Dr. Watkins is a K-12 educator with 23 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.

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Dr. 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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