



PRESS RELEASE

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High School English Teacher and Nationally Recognized Teacher Quality Scholar Elected Commission Chair and Vice Chair for 2012

Mr. Charles Gahagan and **Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond** have been elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for 2012. The two were elected by acclamation at the Commission's December 9, 2011 meeting and will serve through December 2012.

In accepting the nomination for Chair, Mr. Gahagan stated, "I am honored and thrilled to be a member of this Commission and to accept the nomination. I continue to be impressed with the intelligence, dedication, judgment and wisdom of my colleagues as we face the challenges ahead."

Dr. Darling-Hammond, in accepting the nomination for Vice Chair, noted the deep importance of the work of the Commission and stated, "I am greatly impressed with the competence of the members of the Commission and its staff and look forward to working with Chair Gahagan and my fellow Commissioners in the coming year."



Charles Gahagan has taught high school English since 1969, with the exception of 1971 to 1974, when he served in the U. S. Army Security Agency as a Russian interpreter. He earned his B.A. from Michigan State University and his M.A. from Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, both in English literature. He holds a single subject credential in English, as well as CLAD and GATE certificates. He moved to California from Michigan in 1986 to help open Moreno Valley Canyon Springs High School, where he still teaches AP English literature. An English department co-chair and co-chair of the school's WASC Leadership Team, he was a principal designer of the school's four career academies, all of them California Partnership Academies.

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He has taught most courses found in a high school English department, including core classes, support classes, newspaper, yearbook, film studies and humanities. A workshop presenter for the SB 472 teacher training program, he has also taught education classes and conducted other teacher workshops. He has been active in new-teacher support since 1992, first as a mentor teacher, then as a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Support Provider. Since 1999, he has been the spelling master for the Riverside County Spelling Bee. Gahagan served as the Commission's Vice Chair and as Chair of the Commission's Legislative Committee in 2010 and 2011.



Linda Darling-Hammond is Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University where she has launched the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education and the School Redesign Network and served as faculty sponsor for the Stanford Teacher Education Program. She is a former president of the American Educational Research Association and member of the National Academy of Education. Her research, teaching, and policy work focus on issues of school reform, teacher quality and educational equity. From 1994-2001, she served as executive director of the

National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, a blue-ribbon panel whose 1996 report, *What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future*, led to sweeping policy changes affecting teaching in the United States. In 2006, this report was named one of the most influential affecting U.S. education and Darling-Hammond was named one of the nation's ten most influential people affecting educational policy over the last decade. In 2008-09, she headed President Barack Obama's education policy transition team.

Author of over 300 publications, Darling-Hammond has received numerous awards for her research and writing including the AACTE Pomeroy Award in 2005 and the National Staff Development Council's Outstanding Book Award for 2000. Among recent recognitions, she is recipient of the 2011 Brock International Prize in Education and the 2009 McGraw Hill Prize for Innovation in Education. In December 2011, she received the American Educational Research Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

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