



PRESS RELEASE

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Seasoned Educators Appointed to Committee on Accreditation

SACRAMENTO -- The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) chose three seasoned educators to join their veteran colleagues on the Committee on Accreditation (COA): Carol A. Leighty, Superintendent of Temecula Valley Unified School District; Nancy Watkins, teacher at Valencia High School in Fullerton; and Arlinda Eaton, Associate Dean of Education, California State University, Northridge. The COA is a statutory committee appointed by the Commission and charged with deciding the initial and continuing accreditation of educator preparation.

“We are very lucky to have such dedicated and seasoned educators agree to join the COA,” declared P. David Pearson, chair of the Commission. “The breadth and depth of the experience they bring to the COA is vital to moving our new accreditation system forward.”

“Accreditation” is the approval process that all educator preparation programs undergo to license educators in California. The revised educator preparation accreditation system focuses on 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 Commission’s Committee on Accreditation can determine at any point if program intervention or assistance is needed. The accreditation system’s success is measured by the continuing viability of programs that produce effective educators for California’s students.

Leighty, of San Diego, brings a wealth of experience as a teacher in San Diego schools, administrator in the San Diego Unified School District and Superintendent in Lakeside Union School District, Redondo Beach Unified School District and most recently, Temecula Unified School District. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Masters degrees from San Diego State University and her education doctorate from the University of Southern California. Leighty holds administrative, elementary and special education credentials. She has been awarded numerous regional and statewide honors for her work in education.

Watkins, of Yorba Linda, is a high school social science teacher with 19 years of experience in the classroom. Currently working on her doctorate in education

leadership, she has been recognized as teacher of the year at Valencia High School and Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

Eaton, of Northridge, has worked in higher education for almost 30 years with a special focus on reading and language arts. She led California State University, Northridge (CSUN) through state and national accreditations and currently serves as CSUN's Associate Dean of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education. Prior to her work in California, Eaton instructed at the University of Texas at Austin. Her consulting activities include work on behalf of DreamWorks and various educational entities. Eaton's contributions to the field include work in reading and literacy and collaborating on an independent doctoral program in educational leadership at CSUN.

The Commission also appointed alternates to the COA including Hanns Michael Botz of Los Angeles, Sally Plicka of Davis and Ellen Curtis-Pierce of Orange.

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