



PRESS RELEASE

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New Programs to Prepare Agriculture Specialists, Special Educators and Teachers of English Learners, Approved

SACRAMENTO—The Commission on Teacher Credentialing's Committee on Accreditation approved four new programs designed to prepare agriculture specialists, special education teachers, and teachers of English learners, at its October 10, 2008, meeting in Sacramento.

New programs for prospective agriculture, special educators, and teachers of English language are now available at the following universities:

- California State University, Chico (Chico, CA) – Agriculture Specialist Instruction
- Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, CA)—Education Specialist (Moderate/Severe Disabilities Internship)
- University of LaVerne (LaVerne, CA) California Teachers of English Learners (CTEL)
- Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, CA) CTEL

Agriculture Specialist programs prepare candidates to teach agriculture in career technical education settings and prepare students for careers in the agricultural industry. Special education programs prepare teachers to work with students who have a variety of disabilities. CTEL programs prepare teachers to work with students for whom English is their second language. While new teachers receive preparation to teach English learners within their teacher preparation and induction programs, veteran teachers and many teachers trained out-of-state will receive their training through the new CTEL programs.

The Committee on Accreditation determined that these programs met all standards and preconditions and approved them for initial accreditation.

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The Specialist Instruction Credential in Agriculture at California State University, Chico prepares candidates to fully understand and be able to implement the Agricultural Educational model of instruction which consists of three components – classroom instruction, leadership development (Future Farmers of America) and Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs. Vocational Agriculture teachers utilize the formal classroom, laboratories, shops and greenhouses to impart agricultural knowledge and skills, occupational experiences, leadership and personal skills as well as employability skills to high school students to prepare them to enter the agricultural work force. Also, in all courses, current trends in career technical education are addressed. In some courses students create and deliver lessons to their peers.

The Special Education Department of Azusa Pacific University is dedicated to quality professional programs of teacher preparation and is comprised of a community of learners who reflect respect for diversity. The newly approved Education Specialist Credential (Moderate/Severe Disabilities Internship and Non-Internship) (Preliminary) will be offered at the main Azusa campus, as well as all Southern California regional sites, including High Desert, San Bernardino, Murietta, San Diego, Ventura, Orange, and Los Angeles. The program will be available in both in-person and online formats to accommodate diverse student learner needs. This new credential program was developed in response to the growing need for teachers trained specifically to work with students on the Moderate/Severe spectrum in a variety of classroom settings.

In the University of LaVerne CTET program candidates will utilize Blackboard in order to provide candidates with timely feedback on assignments and assessments. Candidates will compile a portfolio throughout the program as evidence of competence in the knowledge, skills and abilities in the CTET program.

The CTET program at Loyola Marymount University includes coursework in Cultural Diversity, Theories of Second Language Acquisition, Methodology in English Language Development and Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English/Elementary or Secondary and Educational Linguistics. Each course has a signature assessment that is included in the portfolio which serves as the evidence of candidate competence for the CTET authorization.

Specific program information is available by contacting the following university representatives:

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- **California State University, Chico– Agriculture Specialist Instruction**

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Agricultural Engineering Technology
College of Agriculture
California State University, Chico
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- **Azusa Pacific University—Education Specialist (Moderate/Severe Disabilities Internship)**

Dr. Nilsa J. Thorsos, Chair
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701 East Foothill Boulevard
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- **University of La Verne—CTEL**

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- **Loyola Marymount University—CTEL**

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