



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009

CONTACT:
MARILYN ERRETT (916) 445-7912

Three Exemplary Educators Appointed to Committee on Accreditation

LOS ANGELES -- The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) has chosen three exemplary educators to join their veteran colleagues on the Committee on Accreditation (COA): **Pia Lindquist Wong, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean in the College of Education at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) ; **Anne Ford Jones, Ed.D.**, Director of Teacher Education Programs at University of California, Riverside (UCR); and **Sally Plicka**, Director of the Yolo-Solano Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program for Davis Joint Unified School District. The appointments were made at the Commission's April 23 – 24, 2009 meeting held at the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The COA is a statutory committee appointed by the Commission and charged with deciding the initial and continuing accreditation of educator preparation programs.

Commissioners Margaret Gaston, David Pearson and Ting Sun interviewed six nominees for the three vacant positions on the COA. The Commissioners publicly commented on the exceptional qualifications of each nominee.

“Accreditation” is the approval process that all educator preparation programs undergo to prepare licensed educators in California. The revised 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. The accreditation system’s success is measured by the continuing viability of programs that produce effective educators for California’s students.

Wong, of CSUS, brings a wealth of accreditation experience as a university faculty member, faculty program coordinator and dean. She earned both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of California, Berkeley and a Doctorate from Stanford University. Wong served as the Principal Investigator over the U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, the responsibilities of which included the project directorship of the Equity Network: 12 urban professional

- MORE -

development schools partnered with CSUS. She has also received numerous honors and awards including, most recently, the Outstanding University Service award from CSUS, the Quality Education Partnership Award for the Equity Network from the California Council on Teacher Education and the Educator of the Year Award for the Equity Network from CSUS.

Jones, of UC Riverside, has already worked with the Commission in several capacities, as a member of the Board of Institutional Reviewers, as part of the TPA Implementation Task Force, and as an education assessment standards program reviewer, as well as coordinating the accreditation visit for the University of California, Riverside in her first year there as Director of Teacher Education in the Graduate School of Education. Jones earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees and her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and her Doctorate from UCLA and the University of California, Irvine, jointly. The emphasis of her dissertation included teacher preparation, assessment and accommodations, and autism and language acquisition.

Plicka, of Yolo-Solano BTSA, has a breadth of experience in K-12 education that ranges from high school teaching to serving as a site administrator to her current position as BTSA Induction Consortium Director. She has spent a number of years working within and around various BTSA Induction programs. Plicka earned her Bachelor's degree at Brigham Young University in Utah before coming to the field of education as a career changer and earning a Single Subject Teaching Credential from University of California, Davis. She then earned both an Administrative Services Credential and Master's degree at CSUS. She continues to be an active participant in the Learning to Teach Continuum in California.

The Commission also appointed Carrie Ann Blackaller of CSU Dominguez Hills, Juan Flores of CSU Stanislaus, and Kiran Kumar of Pomona Unified School District to serve as alternates on the COA.

###