



PRESS RELEASE
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Pioneering Charter School Co-Founder and Respected High School English Teacher Elected Commission Chair and Vice Chair for 2010

Touting the recent turn-around and success of the Commission while recognizing the many challenges ahead, **Dr. Ting Lan Sun** and **Mr. Charles Gahagan** accepted their respective positions as Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for 2010. The two were elected by acclamation at the Commission's December 9-10, 2009 meeting and will serve through December 2010.

Ting Lan Sun currently leads the quality and accountability initiatives at the California Charter Schools Association. She has more than 22 years in the field of education and has been actively involved in the charter schools movement for over 17 years as a teacher, administrator, and school operator. The co-founder and Educational Programs Director of the Sacramento-based Natomas Charter School, Dr. Sun directed curriculum, instruction, staff development, and professional growth. From 1997–2000, she was an Educational Programs Consultant in the California Department of Education's Charter Schools Unit where she participated in the development of charter school administrative policies and regulations, and the administration of the federal public charter schools grant program. She has also served as a senior consultant for Cambridge Education, an international school quality review and educational consulting firm.



Dr. Sun was Vice President of Leadership and Quality for the California Charter Schools Association from 2003-2006 where she developed and implemented the Association's quality assurance strategy and initiatives, including standards articulation, quality site visits and program reviews. In addition she has created, directed and implemented effective leadership training programs in all aspects of charter school administration and served as a mentor for the Leadership for Educational Entrepreneur (LEE) Program at Arizona State University.

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Dr. Sun serves on the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) Advisory Committee and is on the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) sub-committee. She is also a board member of the American Board Certification for Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), a national alternative teacher certification program. Dr. Sun received her bachelor's degree in Latin and English from Austin College, a master's degree in education from Stanford University, and a doctorate of education from the University of California at Davis.

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. He has taught most courses found in a high school English department, including core classes, support classes, newspaper, yearbook, film studies and humanities. Currently 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.



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