



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Marilyn Errett  
Phone: 916-445-7912  
media@ctc.ca.gov

### **Innovations for Preparing Science, Math and Career Technical Education Teachers Adopted by Credentialing Commission**

SACRAMENTO – The [Commission on Teacher Credentialing](#) approved a new approach for preparing the teachers of future scientists, engineers, mathematicians and professionals in related fields at its June 3, 2010 meeting. Following direction from the Legislature to increase the number of teachers ready to jump-start students into STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and CTE (career/technical fields), the Commission endorsed recommendations for accrediting new types of teacher preparation programs. In addition to universities, school districts, and county offices of education, the Commission will now be able to accredit community-based organizations and nongovernmental organizations to offer STEM and CTE credential programs.

SBX5 1, authored by Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) and signed by the Governor on January 7, 2010, was part of an education special session package aimed at helping California meet requirements for federal Race to the Top grant funds. The purpose of the law is to provide alternatives in teacher preparation in specific fields “that do not compromise state standards.”

While the Commission has worked with universities and, in a limited capacity, school districts, county offices of education and charter schools to provide teacher preparation, it has not previously worked with community-based and non-governmental organizations. The Commission recognized immediately that it would need to provide guidance and assistance to these new sponsors while providing assurance to credential candidates and the public that the organizations are fiscally sound and committed to providing quality programs on an ongoing basis. Like all program sponsors in the state, they will need to meet California’s standards for accreditation.

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Aided by the in-depth work of its [Committee on Accreditation](#), the Commission identified an approach that provides options and flexibility for new program providers. A guide prepared for these new entities states, “Thank you for sharing California’s commitment to providing effective teachers for today’s STEM and CTE classrooms. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing welcomes non-traditional teacher preparation program sponsors. Our goal is to facilitate program flexibility while maintaining high standards for teacher preparation.”

Now that the new process is in place, the Commission awaits its first applications from non-traditional program providers. While these new sponsors begin to join the pipeline, there are many excellent programs already in place offered by the Commission’s currently accredited institutions.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/STEM-CTE/STEM-CTE.html>

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