



PRESS RELEASE

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Teacher Education Programs Make the Grade

SACRAMENTO – The Commission on Teacher Credentialing’s (CTC) appointed oversight body, the Committee on Accreditation (COA), began 2011 by taking action to approve 18 new California educator preparation programs last week. The details of one such program approval, Alliant University, provide a good look at the value of this systematic approval process.

At its January 20, 2011 meeting, the COA took action to grant the status of full “Accreditation” to the educator preparation program at **Alliant University**. This accomplishment follows a great deal of hard work by staff and faculty of the university. Alliant was initially granted a status of “Accreditation with Probationary Stipulations” by the COA following its 2008 site visit. The Committee on Accreditation required a follow-up visit to Alliant University within 6 months of the original accreditation decision. While Alliant continued to advance its accreditation status, it took a number of revisits by its COA accreditation team and a willingness to work with the team – accepting guidance and support – to bring the university’s program to full accreditation in November 2010.

The members of the Committee on Accreditation (COA) are appointed by the CTC to perform the work of accrediting all programs in California that offer educator preparation. The accreditation process ensures program quality and results in much needed teachers, administrators, school nurses, and all other certificated personnel that are fully prepared to support the success of California’s public school students.

All of California’s educator preparation programs are on a 7-year accreditation cycle. This systematic cycle of data collection and regularly scheduled program reports supports program self-analysis with a focus on areas of improvement. The culmination of this work is an on-site visit by a COA accreditation team. The team works closely with the program both before and during the site visit and, if necessary, after the site visit to guide and support the program toward successful accreditation.

Before becoming part of the regular cycle of accreditation and on-site reviews, programs

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must receive initial institutional accreditation. This approval process enables the COA to ensure programs provide viable, successful options for individuals seeking to become professional educators or administrators or provide other professional-level services to public school students. Institutions receiving initial accreditation for their preparation programs at the January 2011 meeting are as follows: **San Mateo-Foster City School District, Riverside County Office of Education, San Juan Unified School District, Capistrano Unified School District, Marin County Office of Education, Stanislaus County Office of Education, San Ramon Valley Unified School District, San Diego County Office of Education, Alliant University, California State University, Northridge, San Joaquin County Office of Education, Vista Unified School District, and Azusa Pacific University** for the Clear Education Specialist Credential; **Whittier College** for the Education Specialist Mild/Moderate Disabilities Credential; **Orange Unified School District** for the Education Specialist Added Authorization in Autism Spectrum Disorder; **California State University, Dominguez Hills** for the Bilingual Authorization in Spanish; **Argosy University** for the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential; and, **University of California, Riverside Extension** for the Career and Technical Education Credential.

The Committee on Accreditation has six more meetings scheduled for 2010-11 academic year. For information on meeting dates and agendas, visit <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/coa-meetings.html>. For additional information on the COA and the accreditation process, please visit <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/coa.html>.

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