



PRESS RELEASE

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Commission Appoints Members to Accreditation Committee

SACRAMENTO – The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) appointed three members to its [Committee on Accreditation](#) (COA) at their April 14-15, 2011 meeting. Two new members – **Kenneth Lopour** and **Deborah Erickson** – and one reappointment – **Nancy Watkins** – were selected from the finalist pool of six. The newly appointed members represent the K-12 and postsecondary education communities, respectively. The three remaining candidates will serve as alternate members to the COA. The term of service for these new members extends from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015. The Commission takes into consideration such variables as geographic, academic and professional sector representation when choosing members for the COA, in order to best represent California’s diverse learning community.

Kenneth Lopour is currently the Dean of Students at New Millennium Secondary School in Carson, CA, after serving one year as a Social Studies teacher and Department Chair. Prior to that, he served two years as World History teacher and Department Chair at Early College High School. Both are charter schools. Mr. Lopour earned his Bachelor of Arts degree and teaching credential from San Francisco State University. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts degree program in Education Administration at California State University, Fullerton. Adding to his experiences at charter schools, Mr. Lopour also brings knowledge of student populations across a wide area of ethnic and socio-economic realms.

Deborah Erickson of Thousand Oaks was appointed as a representative of the postsecondary education community. Before joining the faculty at California Lutheran University, where she serves as an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Erickson served in public schools for 19 years. She earned her Master and Bachelor of Arts degrees and her teaching credential at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA. Her second Master of Arts degree was earned at California State University, San Bernardino and her Doctorate in Educational Administration was earned at University of the Pacific. In addition to her Washington State credentials, Dr. Erickson also holds a teaching credential and an administrative services credential from California.

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Dr. Erickson will be bringing her experiences in the private postsecondary community to the COA.

Nancy Watkins was first appointed to the COA in August 2007 during which time she served two 1-year terms as co-chair; this will be her second term as a member. She therefore brings a breadth of knowledge concerning California's accreditation system and the work of the COA. Hailing from Yorba Linda, Dr. Watkins earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership through the UC/CSU Joint Doctorate Program in Irvine, CA. Additionally, she holds a Master of Arts degree from Claremont Graduate University, a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of California, Santa Barbara, and earned her teaching credential from San Francisco State University. Dr. Watkins currently teaches Educational Policy and Governance and serves as a writing coach in the Educational Leadership Department at California State University, Fullerton and was recently appointed to the Aspiring Leaders Program in Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

The COA is a 12 member committee of six representatives from postsecondary education and six certificated professionals from public schools, school districts, or county offices of education in California. COA members are responsible for understanding the accreditation framework and the standards for professional preparation that are developed and adopted by the Commission. In addition to approving new programs for teacher preparation, the COA coordinates an ongoing cycle of program accreditation. A COA team conducts a site visit at each program institution. These site visits include extensive review of program data and documentation, and interviews with faculty, program participants and graduates, administrators and public school personnel. Following a site visit, a full report with accreditation recommendations is brought to the COA for final review and approval. This accreditation process ensures programs are providing complete and effective training for future school personnel that meet the standards adopted by California for the preparation of credential candidates.

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