



PRESS RELEASE

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Key Leadership Changes Announced for Commission on Teacher Credentialing

SACRAMENTO – Dr. Ting Sun, Chair of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission), announced today that the Commission endorsed the short-term appointment of two of the Commission’s Division Directors to serve as co-Executive Directors. Patty Wohl, Director of the Certification, Assignment and Waivers Division and Teri Clark, Director of the Professional Services Division, will join forces to ensure that the overall work of the Commission moves forward.

The announcement was made following notification of the modified retirement plans of Executive Director Dale Janssen and the retirement plans of General Counsel Mary Armstrong. Mr. Janssen’s previously announced retirement plans will begin earlier than first projected. He will begin his retirement next week on Monday, June 6. Ms. Armstrong’s retirement will begin when a new General Counsel is hired.

Both Janssen and Armstrong expressed their commitment to the vision and mission of the Commission. However, in light of the recent audit of the agency’s credential discipline and personnel practices both felt that their ability to lead was compromised and that the agency would benefit from a fresh perspective.

In introducing an update on the Commission’s implementation of the audit recommendations, Dr. Sun stated:

First, I want to assure the public that we take our responsibility to California’s six million school children and their parents very seriously. We understand our role of making sure that the teachers in our public school classrooms are qualified and meet each and every state requirement.

The recent state audit raised some serious concerns about the operation of this Commission. We have read the audit report very carefully, closely examined the findings and have moved expeditiously to address the recommendations made by the Auditor. We have also heard additional concerns raised by the public and members of the press.

Today, I'm happy to report to you what immediate steps we are taking to address the audit findings and to guide us as we move forward. Audits *can* be effective management tools – companies and agencies use them all the time to highlight management shortcomings and improve service. As this meeting continues, you will hear point-by-point what steps we are currently undertaking to improve management and restore the public trust.

New acting co-Executive Directors Wohl and Clark bring a strong combination of organizational, technical and educational experience. They will serve until an Interim Executive Director is placed in the position or until a permanent Executive Director is appointed.

Outgoing Executive Director Janssen leaves a legacy of web-based credential processing, the implementation of the first Teaching Performance Assessment in the nation, and a data-based educator preparation program accreditation system applauded by national accrediting associations.

Ms. Armstrong led the Commission in the passage of legislation to close loopholes in statute that delayed the suspension or revocation of credentials in cases involving specified sex or drug offenses.

For information regarding Commission staff's prompt response to the BSA report's recommendations and an outline of future work related to the recommendations see: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2011-06/2011-06-2H.pdf>.

For future updates on the Commission's progress toward meeting the recommendations see: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/audit/default.html>

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