

To: Teri Clark  
Director, Professional Services Division  
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

From: Ric Campbell  
Dean of Teacher Education  
Bard College

Date: September 16, 2011

Re: Additional Response to Preconditions 6 and Preconditions 7

### **Precondition 6**

In the matter of assurances, and as an addendum to the original letter of assurances filed with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, let it be known that the Bard College Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program will fulfill all of the applicable standards of program quality and effectiveness that have been adopted by the Commission and will be fully forthcoming in informing candidates of the Bard MAT program's credentialing status, making sure that candidates pursue the alternative path of New York State certification in any area for which the program has not been approved in a timely manner that guarantees successful degree completion and the legal status to be hired as a classroom teacher in the State of California. Additionally, the Bard MAT program agrees that a site visit by the Commission on Accreditation should be scheduled as early as possible to ensure demonstration of compliance in all matters related to the operations of the Bard MAT program as a California credentialing program. The Bard MAT program will cooperate fully in such a site visit and provide whatever data is necessary to respond to the focus of any such reviews.

Let this memorandum serve as notification of compliance with the expectations of the Commission in the matter of the Bard College Master of Arts in Teaching Program as a Single-Subject Credential Program in the State of California.

### **Precondition 7.**

In the matter of the Bard College Master of Arts in Teaching Program, operating as a Single-Subject Teaching Credential Program in the State of California, and as an addendum and amendment to prior information and assurances provided in response to

Precondition 7, let it be known that Carla Finkelstein, Director of the Bard College Master of Arts in Teaching Program – Delano, California Campus, is designated as the person responsible for reporting and responding to any data inquiry from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, including but not limited to program enrollments, program completers, examination results, recruitment materials, independent research data collected to measure program outcomes in terms of teacher retention and student achievement, and state and federal reporting within the time limits specified by the Commission.

This memorandum serves as official notification of the appointment of Carla Finkelstein as the designated reporter in response to any data inquiries from the Commission and as an addendum and modification to the prior submission regarding Precondition 7.

**Final note.** Please also let it be known that a similar letter related to assurances and the reporting of data is forthcoming from Leon Botstein, President of Bard College, which we will submit as an additional documentation that reaffirms the commitment of Bard College to compliance with all standards of program quality and effectiveness and to providing any information as requested by the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ric Campbell", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ric Campbell  
Dean of Teacher Education

at

September 19, 2011

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
P.O. Box 944270  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2700

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been informed of the issues that emerged in August regarding our request for the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to grant initial institutional approval to the Bard College Master of Arts in Teaching Program. I understand that errors in timing and judgment were made and I have addressed these issues with the Dean of Teacher Education, Ric Campbell, and his staff, and I assure you that this will not happen again. Bard College is deeply committed to the improvement of adolescent education in the Central Valley of California. Bard has forged a partnership for educational change with a major agricultural employer in this region, who operates the various Paramount Agricultural Companies and has been contributing to education at all levels, from pre-kindergarten through college for more than a decade.

I reaffirm the assurances and commitment made in my prior letter regarding our commitment to preparing excellent teachers for the Central Valley of California and the corollary work that the Bard MAT Program carries out with regional school districts in an effort to foster broader changes in schools and advance student achievement. Bard is more than pleased to host a site visit at the earliest opportunity by an evaluation team or to work in any way deemed necessary by the Commission for purposes of ongoing program evaluation. Let it also be known that Bard has hired Carla Finkelstein as the full-time Director for the Delano, CA campus and Director Finkelstein will now be the person responsible for responding and reporting to any inquiry or requests for data from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Sincerely,



Leon Botstein  
President