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KALMANOVITZ
SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION

July 31, 2020

Dear Members of CTC:

I am writing to you in support of **Agenda Item 4B: Proposal to defer by one year the deadline for Commission-approved Pupil Personnel programs to be in alignment with new Commission adopted Pupil Personnel Program Standards**. Given the current challenges that PK-12 schools face during COVID-19, I feel strongly that counselor preparation programs need to focus our full attention during the 20-21 academic year on supporting our pre-service counselors in training and the school communities they serve. We are in an unprecedented time, with many unknowns, and the coming year will involve training our students to provide services using distance learning, which many of us just barely began to master last spring when we went into shelter-in-place. Many counselor educators would also appreciate having the time to conduct meaningful research on issues related to school counselor preparation during a global pandemic. Offering the option of delayed implementation of the new standards will allow us all some valuable time to work effectively with our own students and to offer help and guidance to PK-12 school personnel in need of assistance during this challenging time. It is my sincere hope that you will not only pass this proposal, but that you will also modify the deadlines for the transitions report, so that they correspond with the revised implementation deadline. Having the option to delay implementation and the accompanying reports will ease some of the pressure and stress experienced by California counselor educators and our partner schools as well. I am very grateful to all of you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzy Thomas".

Suzy Thomas, Ph.D., LPCC, PPS-SC
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Undergraduate Programs 31 July 2020

Child and Adolescent
Development

Communicative Disorders
and Sciences

Special Education

Teacher Education

Credential and Graduate
Programs

Child and Adolescent
Development

Communicative Disorders
& Sciences

Counselor Education

Educational Leadership

Educational Leadership
Doctoral Program

Special Education

Teacher Education

Commission on Teacher Credentialing
1900 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to you regarding **Agenda Item 4B: Proposal to defer by one year the deadline for Commission-approved Pupil Personnel programs to be in alignment with new Commission adopted Pupil Personnel Program Standards.** I strongly support this proposal and hope that the Commission will approve it along with revised deadlines for the corresponding transitions report. The challenges of providing effective training for pre-service counselors during COVID-19 are numerous, and many of these challenges remain unknown as we approach the start of the 2020-21 academic year. The PK-12 schools where we place our pre-service counselors will undoubtedly be overwhelmed this year with the task of maintaining a supportive distance learning environment or making the transition back to in-person instruction if/when it is safe to do so. Our trainees will need a great deal of support from us in order to feel prepared to provide remote counseling services in an ethical and responsible manner, and this means that we will need to devote more energy and time to supporting our students this year. Having additional time to thoughtfully prepare our transitions report and work toward successful implementation of the new standards would be extremely helpful to many counselor educators in School Counseling, School Psychology, and School Social Work programs across California. Thank you very much in advance for considering the proposal to delay implementation of the new PPS standards.

Sincerely,



Aubrey Uresti, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Counselor Education Department
Connie L. Lurie College of Education
San José State University