College of Education Recommended for Continuing Accreditation

Accreditation teams from both the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) came to SDSU October 16-21 for an on-site visit as part of the College of Education’s request for continued accreditation. We are pleased to report that we are recommended for full accreditation from the CCTC on all standards, for all programs. Although the formal NCATE continued accreditation status is not finalized until the team’s recommendation is voted on by a national Unit Accreditation Board (UAB) in April, the NCATE team determined that the College of Education met all six standards for both basic and advanced programs, and will be recommended to the UAB for continued accreditation.

Among the comments made by members of both teams at the exit meeting were:

• “It is almost impossible to impress me, but we will not just confirm all standards were met but will be noting strengths in this report as well.” Doug Warring, NCATE Team Chair
• “I lost count of the number of times people mentioned ‘engagement’… It was always a way to capture a deep and complex relationship between the institution and the community it serves, between the candidate and the program, and across programs…” Mark Cary, Co-Chair CCTC Team
• “We note the dedication to candidates (students) and how well taken care of the candidates (students) feel. This is unusual across so many diverse programs.” Doug Warring
• “After many years of doing this, it is unusual for a College this large to have such an overwhelmingly positive accreditation review from both the state and NCATE.” Teri Clark, Co-Chair CCTC Team

Congratulations to the entire faculty, staff, students, and community partners for the role each played over the past several years in making this a successful accreditation process. With this recommendation, the College stands ready to respond to the challenges of today and opportunities in our future. We have a proud past and a very promising future! WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

College of Education Announces New Associate Dean

The College of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jose Luis Alvarado as Associate Dean of the College of Education. Dr. Alvarado, who is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education, takes over this position from Dr. Margie Kitano, who will retire in December. Dr. Alvarado received his BA in psychology and an MA in special education from SDSU. His Ph.D. was completed at the University of Virginia in 2001.

Dr. Alvarado’s professional career reflects an established record of working with policy, procedures and operations. As a former district level school administrator and an active principal investigator on several large federally funded projects, he brings a wealth of experience. In addition, those who work with him note his professional integrity and excellent interpersonal skills. He is active in several local, state, and national professional organizations and provides leadership to several community-based organizations. Dr. Alvarado began a planned transition orientation with Associate Dean Margie Kitano on Monday, October 26. He will officially assume his new position on January 1, 2010.
COE PROMOTED and TENURED FACULTY 2009-10

Promoted to Professor:

Dr. Marilee Bresciani  
(Administration, Rehabilitation, and Post-Secondary Education)

Promoted to Associate Professor and Tenured:

Dr. Cristina Alfaro  
(Policy Studies in Language and Cross-Cultural Education)

Dr. Trish Hatch  
(Counseling and School Psychology)

Dr. Bonnie Kraemer  
(Special Education)

Dr. Soh-Leong Lim  
(Counseling and School Psychology)

Dr. Cathy Zozakiewicz  
(Teacher Education)

Dr. Lasisi Ajayi (Assistant Professor, Imperial Valley Campus Division of Education) traveled to Nigeria this past summer as a recipient of the 2009-2010 Rotary Grants for University Teachers. Dr. Ajayi co-supervised (and will continue to co-supervise) two Ph. D. candidates in Teacher Education at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in addition to teaching English Language at St. Anne’s Junior School 2 and Army Barrack Elementary School. Dr. Ajayi was able to expose students and their teachers to strategies for teaching English language learners using multimodal and new literacies. Dr. Ajayi also organized a one-day seminar, “New Literacies and English Language Learners: A New Pedagogy for the Future,” for English teachers at St. Anne’s, with the goal of exposing educators to new ways of teaching English language using technology, comparing English language teaching in Nigeria with the strategies used in the United States.

Dr. Alberto J. Rodriguez (Professor, Department of Policy Studies in Language and Cross-Cultural Education) was recently elected Co-Program Chair of the Science Teaching and Learning Special Interest Group of the American Education Research Association (AERA). In this capacity, Dr. Rodriguez (along with Dr. Bernard Ricca of St. John Fisher College) will oversee the management of the review process of research paper proposals submitted for presentation at the upcoming AERA Annual Meeting in Denver, 2010. The Science Teaching and Learning Special Interest Group is one of the largest AERA research groups, and the sole group with a focus on science education research at all levels.

Dr. Alexander (Sasha) Chizhik (Associate Professor, School of Teacher Education) recently edited and contributed to a volume of the Journal of Social Issues (June, 2009). The theme of the volume was “Intragroup Conflict and Cooperation.” Dr. Chizhik served as the lead editor, coauthored the introduction to the volume, and coauthored one of the research articles, “Lower-status Participation and Influence: Task Structure Matters.” The Journal of Social Issues is one of the most highly cited journals tracked by the Social Science Citation Index.

Congratulations to Compact for Success, which is celebrating its 10th year. The Compact is a groundbreaking partnership between Sweetwater Union High School District and SDSU, which guarantees admission to SDSU for Sweetwater students who meet certain benchmarks relating to GPA, taking preparatory courses, and other factors. Since its inception in 2000, when 308 Sweetwater students enrolled for fall semester, the number of Sweetwater graduates enrolled at SDSU has increased by 128%, with 746 enrolling as first-time freshman in Fall 2009. See the SDSU NewsCenter story by clicking here.