College of Education Accredited

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) Committee on Accreditation (COA) made their formal accreditation decision for SDSU on January 21st, 2010. Mark Cary, the chair of Board of Institutional Reviewers (BIR) Team that visited SDSU in October, presented the BIR team’s findings to the COA. All of the credential programs offered at SDSU were found to have met all program standards and the BIR team recommended full accreditation for the unit. The COA voted unanimously that SDSU continue to be fully accredited.

Dr. Soh-Leong Lim (Counseling & School Psychology) recently mentored six presentations by graduate students in the Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Program, who presented two poster sessions at Boston College’s Diversity Challenge national forum on issues in equity, diversity and psychology. Paula Helu Fernandez, Stephanie Chiquillo, Jessica Hubble, Nadia Perez and Soh-Leong Lim presented a session on Mental Health Services for the Latino and Asian HIV/AIDS Population in San Diego. Eunice Palacios-Ramirez, Oswaldo Ramirez, and Soh-Leong Lim presented on Stressors on Undocumented Immigrant Families and Forced Separation of Families. The presentations include the voices of their community partners, who are underrepresented in the mental health system.

Dr. Emily Schell (School of Teacher Education), has been recognized by the California Council for the Social Studies (CCSS) with the Hilda Taba Award, to be presented in March at CCSS’s annual conference. Named for renowned educator Hilda Taba, this award recognizes Dr. Schell’s expertise and efforts in promoting social studies education. In addition to her work with credential candidates in the School of Teacher Education, Dr. Schell is well known for her work in promoting geographic literacy through professional development, curriculum design, and student/community programs. An author for Macmillan McGraw-Hill and Glencoe K-12 Social Studies, Dr. Schell serves as the regional coordinator for the California Geographic Alliance and liaison for National Geographic Education Programs, and is the editor for CCSS’s professional journal, the Social Studies Review.

The College’s new Center for Teaching Critical Thinking and Creativity (CTCTC) collaborated with San Diego Unified School District to host a workshop on January 21 and 22 presented by Joyce VanTassel-Baska, Professor Emerita from the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Forty-nine elementary teachers, resource specialists, and volunteer coaches participated in the Center’s inaugural event as well as six of the Center’s founding faculty: Jose Luis Alvarado, Bernie Dodge, Luke Duesbery, Sandy Kay, Margie Kitano, and Carol Prime. The workshop’s purpose was to enable participating teachers to implement with fidelity evidence-based models for teaching critical thinking in language arts. Dr. VanTassel-Baska’s research indicates that students taught with these models applied to high-level curriculum perform better than controls on measures of critical thinking and language arts achievement.

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