



CAR/W QUARTERLY

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE



I hope your spring term is off to a good start. I write today with reflections regarding early literacy that were prompted by a recent report from the National Council for Teacher Quality (NCTQ). As you may know, NCTQ is an advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. <https://www.nctq.org/about/> approach. NCTQ was founded in 2000

to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of educator preparation programs. Their studies and reports have been widely criticized by professional organizations and individuals. Marilyn Cochran-Smith and her colleagues have written a compelling chapter on the history and purpose of NCTQ, *NCTQ: Shame and blame in market-based teacher accountability*, in their book, *Reclaiming accountability in teacher education*, 2018, Teachers College Press. In regards to methodology, in a commentary in the Washington Post, (6/18/13), https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2013/06/18/why-the-nctq-teacher-prep-ratings-are-nonsense/?utm_term=.826bde60c3c5, Linda Darling Hammond reminds us that the NCTQ studies focus on a paper review of “inputs.” In contrast, as you know California has moved toward accountability systems based on outcomes, which includes rigorous tests of basic skills, content knowledge, and pedagogy. In conducting their studies, NCTQ does not conduct campus visits, systematically interview campus program teams, or survey program graduates or employers.

In reviewing their most recent report on early reading instruction <https://www.nctq.org/publications/2020-Teacher-Prep-Review:-Program-Performance-in-Early-Reading-Instruction>, I was again disappointed with their methodology, results, and “grades” which in my view, do not reflect the outstanding work of our faculty and

the preparation you provide to our candidates related to literacy. As you know, CAR/W is dedicated to strengthening literacy education in California. You and your colleagues go about this work in a number of ways including developing innovative curricula for high school students, publishing relevant guides and other documents, and helping to shape educational policy. The most recent publication, *Preparing teachers to provide excellent literacy instruction, 3rd edition*, provides evidence of the strength of our literacy preparation programs and you are to be commended for your collective work on behalf of the students in California.

Keep up the good work!

Best,
Marquita

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



As Dr. Grenot-Scheyer stated in her opening message, our CSU faculty are doing excellent work to ensure the preparation of highly skilled teachers and literacy specialists for California's students. As a way to make our faculty's work more public, the Center will spotlight one Council Representative in each quarterly newsletter. In this issue, I have the

privilege of introducing Dr. Marva Cappello. Dr. Cappello has been a professor at San Diego State since 2000 and she currently serves as the Director of their Joint Doctoral Program in Education. In addition to teaching coursework across credential, masters and doctoral programs, Dr. Cappello also serves as the Director for the Center for Visual Literacies at SDSU (<http://go.sdsu.edu/education/visual-literacies/>). Her vibrant research agenda focuses on leveraging the assets of multimodal texts as equitable educational practice for literacy and language development. In addition to teaching and doing research near the US/Mexican border, Dr. Cappello has worked in Palau, Samoa, Belize, and other international locations. Her outstanding work has yielded over 14 articles in refereed journals and two scholarly books including her most recent, *Get the Picture! Visual Based Literacy Strategies across the Curriculum* (Cappello, & Walker, 2019). Dr. Cappello has extensive training including a BFA from Rochester Institute of Technology, an MS in Education from City University of New York, Hunter College and a PhD in Education from University of Southern California. We are so grateful for her expertise and insight as a literacy leader on CAR/W and in the CSU!

NEWS FROM THE CENTER

In October 2019, the CAR/W Council of Faculty Representatives met in Sacramento in conjunction with the California Reading Association's Professional Development Institute. Our meeting yielded great conversation and thinking in this critical time of transition for the Center. In addition to receiving important updates regarding ongoing and upcoming literacy initiatives in the CSU and state, councilmembers did some collaborative and critical thinking about our mutual work and aims at CAR/W. In particular, this included focused work on observable outcomes attached to the aims of our mission. For example, faculty expressed an interest in collaborating more on literacy research efforts and possible presentations in order to

disseminate research-based practices across the state and CSU system. This will be an area of intention for the Center this year as we hope to present our mutual work at a state literacy conference.

In lieu of a singular Advisory Board meeting this year, the Co-Directors chose to conduct individual meetings with board members. These meetings serve a dual purpose: first, to establish rapport and build relationships between new Center faculty and stakeholders and second, to think deeply about our mutual work. In particular, what are the literacy areas of foci for important groups such as the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) or the California Department of Education? What are the literacy challenges they face? How do these efforts and challenges overlap with the mission of CAR/W? How can we mutually support each other to meet our common goals. The one-to-one meetings will continue this year and our regularly scheduled full Advisory Board will convene in Fall of 2020.

Our esteemed colleague, Nancy Brynelson, officially retired as the Co-Director of CAR/W in December. A search for her replacement is ongoing. As previously noted in the fall newsletter, in order to consolidate and strengthen offices run through the Chancellor's Office, the physical location of the Center is in the process of moving to Long Beach. The next Council of Faculty Representatives meeting will be held on May 1st in Long Beach at the Chancellor's Office. At that meeting, the council will receive updates regarding ongoing literacy initiatives and the ERWC, review and comment on the Center's strategic plan and engage in an inquiry project seeking to better understand the state of literacy instruction in the CSU.



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COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE LITERACY GRANT (CDE)

The California Department of Education has been actively promoting their recent Comprehensive Statewide Literacy Grant. The \$37.5 million in CLSD grant funds are meant to leverage and expand existing statewide infrastructure, guidance, and expertise to bring coherence to the system of literacy supports to improve student outcomes over a period of five years. The grant has two priorities: (1) projects that include evidence-based family literacy strategies and (2) projects that increase educational options for groups of students who have traditionally been underserved. In 2020, the CDE will begin a competitive RFP process for groups seeking funding. In advance of the RFP process, the state asked stakeholders to complete a Comprehensive Statewide Literacy Needs Assessment Survey.



REVISIONS TO LITERACY TPES

The Commission recently adopted revised California Teaching Performance Expectations for literacy. These TPEs will apply to all Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, and Education Specialist credential candidates and preparation programs. The CTC went through a long adoption process receiving feedback from expert groups and the public at large. For more detailed information regarding that process and the nature of the changes, please see Action Item 3D from the November 2019 CTC meeting: https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/commission/agendas/2019-11/2019-11-3d.pdf?sfvrsn=75992db1_2



FOLLOW CAR/W ON TWITTER!

Don't miss informative Tweets from the Center. Did you see the ones below?

- Check out ILA's recent Leadership Brief on children experiencing reading difficulties. On the panel, Hallie Yopp-Slowik (former Co-Director of CAR/W) and Ruth Yopp Edwards (former council member). <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/docs/default-source/where-we-stand/ila-children-experiencing-reading-difficulties.pdf>
- In light of CTC's recent discussion of the CA Dyslexia Guidelines and their potential use within educator preparation, refer to helpful CAR/W resources, *Dyslexia: An Introduction*, developed to help faculty support teacher candidate learning. <https://www2.calstate.edu/CAR/Pages/professional-resources.aspx>





MISSION STATEMENT

The CSU Center for the Advancement of Reading and Writing, dedicated to excellence in literacy instruction, promotes the preparation of knowledgeable and highly skilled teachers and reading/literacy specialists in the California State University by:

- Facilitating faculty communication and research;
- Disseminating research and policy information;
- Fostering connections among the CSU literacy faculty, P-12 partners, and public education stakeholders; and
- Serving as a forum for the interchange of public and academic interests.

The Center is committed to ensuring that California's children and adolescents will be capable readers and writers; as such, they will have the greatest chance of becoming successful and productive citizens in today's changing world.

COUNCIL OF FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

CSU Bakersfield	<i>Alice Hays</i>
CSU Channel Islands	<i>Manuel Correia</i>
CSU Chico	<i>Mimi Miller</i>
CSU Dominguez Hills	<i>Kai Greene</i>
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San Diego State	<i>Marva Cappello</i>
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CSU San Marcos	<i>Christiane Wood</i>
Sonoma State	<i>Rhianna Casesa</i>
Stanislaus State	<i>Susan Neufeld</i>
CalStateTEACH	<i>Amanda Steiman</i>

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California Department of Education
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California Reading Association
<i>Joanne Devine</i>
California School Boards Association
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California State PTA
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CISC ELA/ELD Subcommittee
<i>Lucy Edwards</i>
CSU Faculty Representatives
<i>Imelda Basurto</i>
<i>Marva Cappello</i>
<i>Manuel Correia</i>
<i>Valerie Helgren-Lempesis</i>
<i>Mimi Miller</i>
<i>Susan Neufeld</i>

CONTACTING THE CENTER

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