

PRESIDENT'S POINTS

2/21/07

Now that the fall conference is finished, the holidays are over and the spring semester has started I feel like I can come up for air! I'm sure you are feeling the same way. This is the first of the President's Points for 2007. For those of you new to CCAC membership, I periodically send out e-mails I call my "President's Points" with items of interest and updates. Watch your CCAC list serve e-mails for the subject line "President's Points", and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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1) I hope CCAC members at school districts and county offices of education are encouraging their constituents to use the CCTC e-mail and web page as verification of credential issuance as recommended by the CCTC in Credential Information Alert #06-01, particularly when the details about the credential show up on the web page within 48 hours. The web page is not only a very secure and fraud free resource but is now considered the official method of certificate of clearance and credential verification: <https://teachercred.ctc.ca.gov/teachers/index.jsp>

2) SB 1209 called for change in many aspects of teacher credentialing. The commission is implementing these changes and CCAC is keeping you up to date as these changes occur. Be sure and read the "Highlights of the Commission" which are sent to you after every commission meeting and are available on the CCAC web site: <http://www.teamccac.net/highlights.html> and refer to the commission web page on SB 1209: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/SB1209/default.html>. The latest study performed by the commission as a result of SB 1209 was in regards to whether the RICA exam should be combined with the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA). The TPA is the assessment used by credential programs to determine candidate competency for the teaching credential. The Reading Instruction Competency Exam (RICA) is required of all candidates for initial Multiple Subject and Level I Education Specialist credentials and tests the candidates' competency in the methods of teaching reading. CCAC responded to this proposal at the February commission meeting. Summary of the CCAC response: SB 1209 mandates study of combining of tests to eliminate the amount of testing required of credential candidates and to reduce costs to those candidates. Combining CBEST and CSET and/or offering other options to the CBEST makes sense to achieve this goal. In the case of RICA the concern is that combining the RICA into the TPA could result in more testing and higher costs to credential candidates and to programs that offer credentials. The full text of the CCAC response along with other responses is available on the commission web site: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2007-02/2007-02-21-insert.pdf>

Tedi Kostka
President