Executive Summary: California State University
Summit on Transformative Change in the Preparation of Teachers

The California State University (CSU) is playing a lead role nationally in the transformative redesign of teacher preparation. Reflecting this leadership, the CSU Summit on Transformative Change in the Preparation of Teachers was co-hosted with the National Academy of Sciences on February 14, 2011. The Summit has already been recognized as a seminal event in the history of teacher preparation in the U.S. It involved 270 top education leaders from across California and the nation. Speakers included U.S. Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter, the Presidents of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE), California’s newly elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, and two of the nation’s most prominent figures in teacher education, Linda Darling-Hammond of Stanford University and Lee Shulman, President Emeritus of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Models for effective clinical, field-based teacher preparation that involve close collaboration between universities and P-12 partners in candidate recruitment, preparation, assessment, and induction

Successful designs preparing world-class teachers in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (STEM) and advancing integration of 21st century digital skills across subject areas

Approaches connecting teacher education with promising strategies for closing achievement gaps, including proven methods for assisting at-risk students and extending learning to after-school hours

Innovative assessments of teacher candidate performance and of preparation programs, including rigorous value-added measures of graduates’ impacts on the P-12 students they teach.

In addition to advancing evidence of exemplary practices, the Summit laid the foundation for major next steps in two highly significant areas of reform that CSU will now actively pursue:

Pilot adoption of university/P-12 clinical partnerships for teacher preparation: The Summit launched the California Alliance for Clinical Teacher Preparation and Improving Student Achievement, the first state Alliance resultant from the widely respected NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel report that recently recommended large-scale changes nationally to advance clinical preparation. The California Alliance will select model demonstration sites, promote rigorous measures of candidate and program performance, and foster scale-up through state policies eliminating barriers to reform.

Regional adoption of highly innovative yet proven blueprints for recruiting, selecting, preparing, and supporting world class new teachers across subject areas: CSU campuses already have a track-record of preparing outstanding groups of beginning teachers but will now expand their leadership by experimenting with and implementing additional promising reforms, with special attention to challenges of urban and rural schools and to serving at-risk students from low-income, high minority communities. The efforts will be implemented in close collaboration with P-12 schools and districts.

The Summit was sponsored by distinguished Foundations and corporations across California, including the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. and David and Lucile Packard Foundations and eight major firms: BD Biosciences, Chevron, Cisco, Hewlett Packard, Honeywell, Life Technologies, Pacific Gas & Electric, and Qualcomm.