

# CAR QUARTERLY

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## A Message from the Chancellor's Office

Beverly Young, Assistant Vice Chancellor,  
Academic Affairs

The California State University, like many of California's public education entities, is beginning the new academic year with continuing funding challenges. Despite the difficulties, we have some exciting new initiatives being launched. One is the California Alliance for Teacher Preparation. This work is based on a national movement to implement the recommendations of NCATE's Blue Ribbon Report on reform (<http://www.ncate.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zzeiB1OoqPk%3d&tabid=715>). The California work is being co-led by Chancellor Charles Reed and Long Beach Superintendent Chris Steinhauer. We launched the project earlier this month with a letter of invitation to more than 1,000 school and county district leaders, more than 100 university presidents, and close to fifty education policy makers (<http://www.calstate.edu/teacherED/ca-alliance/index.shtml>). I hope that you will take an interest in this work and become involved as your campus decides how to participate with your P-12 partners. Please let me know if you have questions. I hope you have an interesting and exciting new year.

## News from the Center

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Hallie Yopp Slowik - [hyopp@fullerton.edu](mailto:hyopp@fullerton.edu)

As the new academic year begins, we bid two longtime Council members a fond farewell. **Ina Katz** served as CSU San Bernardino's representative since the Council was originally formed. She was an active member who made numerous contributions to the work of the CSU. We wish her the very best in her retirement.

**Jodene Kersten** represented Cal Poly Pomona. She has moved to the east coast with her family. Her husband and a friend of CAR, Ernest Morrell, accepted a position at Teacher's College. Replacing these members are **Barbara Flores**, CSU San Bernardino, and **Jann Pataray-Ching**, Cal Poly Pomona. Welcome!

The CAR Council will be convening on October 21 via the Web. Literacy faculty should contact their representatives with any questions, suggestions, or requests they have of the Center before the meeting. A list of representatives is on page 3 of this newsletter. Our next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2012, in Sacramento. Six faculty representatives serve on the board that includes representatives from our public partners. Advisory Board members are listed on page 3.

As we announced several months ago, CAR established a twitter account. This permits us to post timely, brief announcements that are likely to be of interest to reading faculty in the CSU system. Please consider following CAR at [www.twitter.com/csucar](http://www.twitter.com/csucar). You will notice that during the summer our tweets included notifications about a change in RICA, the new ECE competencies, and an opportunity to provide feedback about the new assessment system being developed to coincide with the California's implementation of the Common Core State Standards. We hope you find our tweets informative.

## RICA Written Exam Change

Effective August, 2011, the written RICA is only available as a computer-based test. The RICA site, [www.rica.nesinc.com/RC15\\_whatsnew.asp](http://www.rica.nesinc.com/RC15_whatsnew.asp), provides two tutorials for prospective test takers. One tutorial shares information about computer-based assessments, and the other provides a



tour of the Pearson Professional Centers where testing will take place. We encourage faculty whose students will take the RICA to view both tutorials. The written examination will now be given year round, Monday through Saturday (excepting holidays), at the Pearson sites. Students register online, as always, and select an available day, time, and Pearson Professional Center site of their choice.

## Secondary Literacy Summit

CAR is once again co-sponsoring the Secondary Literacy Summit with ACSA, CDE, CTA, and the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd. The Secondary Literacy Summit XI is scheduled for December 6 and 7, 2011, at the Anaheim Marriott. The theme is *Linking Literacy to College and Career Readiness*. Sessions will focus on best practices for improving adolescent literacy achievement. We are pleased that Elizabeth Moje, Don Daves-Roujeaux, and Noma LeMoine will be joining us as keynote speakers. Proposals for small group sessions will be accepted through September 30. Faculty and public school partners involved with secondary education are encouraged to attend. Past participants have given the event very high ratings. For more information or to submit a proposal, go to [www.cacompcenter.org/cs/cacc/print/htdocs/cacc/secondaryliteracy.htm](http://www.cacompcenter.org/cs/cacc/print/htdocs/cacc/secondaryliteracy.htm).

## Transitional Kindergarten

Many school districts are offering pilot Transitional Kindergarten programs this year as they prepare for mandatory implementation in the fall of 2012. Transitional Kindergartens (TKs) will be taught by Multiple Subject Credential holders. CAR created an informational presentation for faculty that outlines the legislation that changes California's kindergarten entrance age and establishes TKs to serve children who no longer meet the entrance age requirement. Faculty may find the presentation useful in their work with credential and graduate students and are welcome to share it as they deem appropriate. It was emailed to CAR Council members during the summer and is also available on the CAR website ([www.calstate.edu/car](http://www.calstate.edu/car)).

## New Assessment System

States adopting the common core state standards are joining one of two federally-funded consortia—Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) or SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

(SBAC)—to create an assessment system to monitor students' progress toward the new standards. California became a member of the latter consortium in June 2011. SBAC is designing measures and tools "to inform instruction, guide interventions, help target professional development, and ensure an accurate measure of each student's progress toward career and college readiness," according to its website, [www.k12.wa.us/smarter](http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter). Linda Darling-Hammond serves as the senior research advisor for SBAC.

SMARTER assessments will focus on English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics and will include mandatory summative assessments, given in 3rd – 8th and 11th grades, and optional interim and formative assessments, as determined locally. The ELA content specifications were released for review in August. A second opportunity to review the specifications will occur from September 19th – 26th. Go to [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) to take advantage of this important opportunity to provide input on the assessment. The target date for implementation is the 2014-2015 school year.

## Looking Ahead

Among the topics addressed in upcoming issues of the *CAR Quarterly* are updates on the following:

- Implementation of Common Core in California
- Textbook Adoption
- Teacher Education Program Data
- Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum for Grades 7-11

## Contacting the Center

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## Advisory Board

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California Department of Education  
*Deb Sigman*

California Reading Association  
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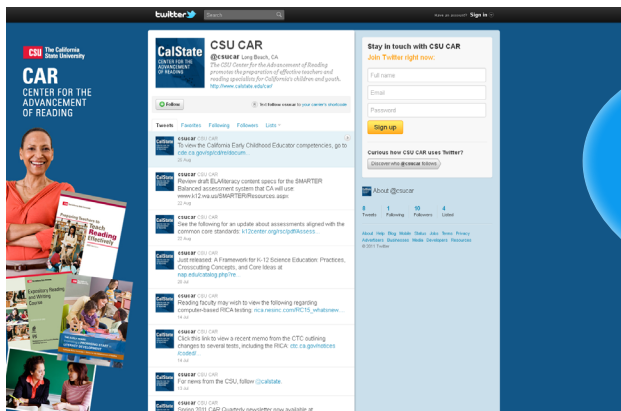
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*Valerie Helgren-Lempesis*  
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## Council of Faculty Representatives

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Marguerite Conrad  
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Anita Hernandez  
Elizabeth Garza  
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Jean Krsak



Don't forget to follow CAR on Twitter!



## Mission Statement



The CSU Center for the Advancement of Reading, dedicated to excellence in literacy instruction, promotes the preparation of effective teachers and reading 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.