Northridge Launches Teachers for a New Era Initiative

University to Undertake Five-Year, $5.7 Million Project to Improve Teaching and Student Learning

Moving into the national spotlight for teacher training, Cal State Northridge has launched its participation in the Teachers for a New Era (TNE) initiative, a landmark five-year, $5.7 million effort at the campus to develop model teacher preparation programs to improve student learning in the classroom.

Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, recently informed CSUN President Jolene Koester that the university’s proposal had been accepted, subject to the approval of the Cal State system’s Board of Trustees. The trustees in November enthusiastically voted to approve the university’s participation.

CSUN is one of four institutions nationwide that has been selected for the initiative, which is being funded by Carnegie, the Ford Foundation and the Annenberg Foundation. The three other participating schools, each to receive similar funding, are the Bank Street College of Education in New York, Michigan State University, and the University of Virginia.

“This is an opportunity for our campus and the CSU to have a direct impact on the nation’s direction for teacher preparation and the assurance of learning in our schools,” President Koester said. “For all of us at CSUN, the university’s selection is a recognition of Cal State Northridge’s commitment to preparing excellent teachers.”

The president, joined by CSUN Provost Louanne Kennedy, also thanked CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed and the trustees for having made teacher preparation a systemwide priority for the CSU, the nation’s largest university system. The Cal State system prepares more than half of all new teachers in California, and CSUN has the largest teachers program in the CSU.

Reed and CSU trustees in turn applauded Cal State Northridge’s selection for the national initiative, calling it an honor for the campus and the system. The chancellor said, “I am so pleased. This is a winner for the CSU of all time. The competition was intense. I know of 500 colleges and universities that wanted this, and four ended up being chosen.”

President Koester told the trustees that the national initiative, now getting underway, already has been receiving exceptional national publicity and attention. The president added that Carnegie officials have called CSUN’s proposal and plans for the project models to be shared with other higher education institutions.

In his letter, Carnegie President Gregorian asked President Koester to “extend to your faculty and staff our deepest appreciation for the extraordinary energy, creativity and intelligence they brought to the demanding task of proposal development. The results are impressive indeed.” Gregorian called the initiative an “exciting opportunity to help our nation’s children benefit from the highest quality teachers its institutions of higher education can prepare.”

Provost Kennedy said a committee of faculty, administrators, K-12 teachers and community members already is at work planning the campus’ activities under the initiative. The university also will be partnering with others, including the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Achievement Council of Los Angeles, and external evaluators and consultants.

Vice Provost Philip Handler, who will be CSUN’s project manager, said the university’s participation will be campus-wide, given that the teacher preparation program involves six of CSUN’s eight academic colleges. In early December, Kennedy and Handler led a CSUN delegation to a national meeting on the initiative in Washington, D.C.

This is the traditional season of giving, so I would like to use this month’s column to tell you about some of the generous people and organizations here on the Cal State Northridge campus that voluntarily reach out to fill needs in our community.

I recently attended the eighth annual Lifesaver Awards Dinner, where the Northridge-Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce honored members of the community for their selflessness, dedication and commitment to improving the lives of others. One of the awardees was Kathryn Sorrells, a professor of communication studies at the university. She was presented with a Lifesaver Award for her work to resolve intercultural conflict between Armenian and Latino students at Grant High School in Van Nuys.

In 1999, professor Sorrells learned that this ongoing conflict had erupted into a riot that involved more than 200 students. After talking with the administrators at Grant High School, she applied for and received a grant to join the Communicating Common Ground Project and went to work with teams of her students to turn this situation around.

The purpose of her program is to create an environment at Grant where cultural differences can be experienced in positive ways. Every week for eight weeks each semester, Sorrells’ CSUN students facilitate discussions, learning activities and exercises to increase the Grant Community Connections continued on page 2.
Cal State Northridge journalism alumna Linda Lingle has been elected the first female governor of Hawaii and the heavily Democratic state’s first Republican chief executive in 40 years, giving the university in the process its first alumni state governor.

Overcoming a narrow loss four years ago to now former Gov. Ben Cayetano, Lingle rebounded in the November 5 election by defeating Democrat Mazie Hirono, the state’s outgoing lieutenant governor, by a 52 to 48 percent margin.

“Gov. Lingle’s election and inauguration have been a tremendous source of pride for our alumni,” said Gray Mounger, CSUN’s assistant vice president of alumni relations. “Alumni see her success as further affirmation of the caliber of their own education.”

Lingle, 49, was sworn into office Monday, December 2 with her running mate, new Lt. Gov. James “Duke” Aiona, a former family court judge, amid festivities that included a parade and a concert on the lawn of the Iolani Palace. A public inaugural party was held December 3.

Cynthia Rawitch—the former Northridge Journalism Department chair who now is associate dean of the College of Arts, Media, and Communication—noted that CSUN, founded in 1958, is a relatively young university. “The early alumni are just now rising to the tops of their chosen professions,” Rawitch said.

“We are extremely proud of Linda,” Rawitch added. “And she is so proud of her degree from Northridge. I’ve never seen anything written about her where she doesn’t compliment her education and the skills she learned at CSUN.”

“It [CSUN] was a terrific school that gave me a really top-notch education,” Lingle, who also worked as a student staff member on the university’s Daily Sundial student newspaper, recently told the Los Angeles Daily News.

Lawrence Schneider, Lingle’s former journalism professor who has stayed in contact with her since her 1975 graduation, said the new governor showed strong leadership qualities as a student. “I’m not surprised by her success,” he said. “She was one of the hardest working and best students we had.”

Lingle’s election is the latest in a long list of “firsts” and other major accomplishments. After graduating from CSUN, Lingle followed her father to Hawaii, where she founded the island of Molokai’s only newspaper, the Molokai Free Press. At that time, she said, Molokai had only 6,000 residents. She was the newspaper’s publisher, reporter, editor, photographer, ad sales representative and its typesetter.

In 1980, Lingle was elected to the Maui County Council. (Molokai is part of Maui County.) She served five two-year terms on the council and lists the creation of a Molokai Planning Commission and giving people a chance to discuss zoning and planning issues with their local elected officials as her major accomplishments.

In 1990, Lingle was elected mayor of Maui County, becoming the first woman, the first non-Maui-born person and the youngest person ever elected to that office.

From then on, Lingle advanced rapidly as a leader in Hawaii state politics, serving as chair of the state Republican Party and, now, as the state’s governor. A moderate Republican, Lingle believes she captured many Democratic votes because, among other things, she is pro-choice on abortion, favors domestic partnerships and opposes prayer in schools.

She also advocates ending the general excise tax on food and medical expenses, decentralizing the state’s public education system to allow for local school boards, and cutting taxes to spur economic and job growth.

“Gov. Lingle’s election and inauguration have been a tremendous source of pride for our alumni.”

—Gray Mounger

CSUN Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations

Lingle has said that reporting on community events and local government sparked her interest in running for political office, because she felt she could make more of a difference as a politician than as a journalist.

Lingle was born in St. Louis in 1953. When she was 12, her family moved to the San Fernando Valley, where she graduated from Birmingham High School. Twice married and twice divorced, Lingle has no children but volunteers with a number of youth organizations, including the Girl Scouts and YWCA and as a reading tutor at a Maui elementary school.

She also has two adopted cats, Snooze and Naniloa, the latter a kitten she rescued in the parking lot of a Hilo hotel after a high-end fundraising dinner.

Until Lingle’s election as Hawaii’s governor, Mike Carb, chairman of Carb Records, had been the highest-ranking CSUN alumnus to serve in state government, having been California’s lieutenant governor from 1979 to 1983.

“It is my hope that our future alumni look at Gov. Lingle, a former Sundial staff member, as an endorsement of the importance of becoming involved in campus activities and embracing the total college experience,” Mounger said.

—Mayronee Barber

A number of CSUN student groups are busy with a variety of outreach efforts, and not just during the holidays.

Many of these also involve faculty and staff. For example:

- there are food donations from the Volunteer Council to needy families through M.E.N.D. in Pacoima;
- the Volunteer Council and AmeriCorps Program “adopt” a M.E.N.D. approved family and provide them with clothes, food and try to fulfill the family’s wish list;
- the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity sponsors a food drive that benefits a local rescue mission;
- the Golden Key Honor Society just held their Books & Bears Drive (expanded this year to include socks and underwear) to benefit the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission in North Hollywood.
- the Society of Hispanic Engineers at CSUN holds a high school fair and brings local students on campus to show the importance of staying in school, while other organizations provide the same for elementary school students.

What an inspiring and exciting time of year this is.

May I offer my best wishes to all of you for safe and happy holidays and a peaceful and prosperous 2003. Until next time…
University Hosts Volunteer Service Awards Program

President Koester and Alumni Association Honor 22 for Service and Dedication to Campus

Cal State Northridge President Jolene Koester and the Alumni Association honored 22 people who have served the campus during the university’s inaugural Volunteer Service Awards Program held November 14 in the Northridge Center. “The awards allow the university to say thank you and recognize people who have demonstrated great interest in and loyalty to Cal State Northridge,” said Gray Mounger, assistant vice president for alumni relations. “Through this recognition, we hope to affirm our continuing invitation to those who wish to be a part of our great university.”

Highlights of the invitation-only luncheon were the presentation of the Emeriti Merit Award to retired professor William “Del” Stelck, the naming of the university’s outstanding volunteer leadership award for Dorothea “Granny” Heitz, and presentation of those awards to Heitz and fellow alums Alma Zatarain and Wayne Adelstein.

Also recognized with Volunteer Service Awards were Marjorie McGregor, Joseph Russo, Carlos Fuentes, Morris Cutler, Jolie DeVorin, Don Sepulveda, Dianne Kuhn, Alan Meyer, Patrick Smith, Jackie Schroggin, Chris Whittington, James Overall, Loree Fink, Joni Novosel, David Phelps, David Brady, Sesar Carreno and Robert Barker.

Dorothea “Granny” Heitz

Dorothea “Granny” Heitz Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership

Affectionately known by generations of Cal State Northridge students and alumni as “Granny,” Heitz has always caught the attention of those around her. In 1966, this grandmother, at age 50 and nearly 30 years older than the average student, entered as a sophomore at San Fernando Valley State College. One day on campus when student leaders had gathered at “The Tub” to discuss who could help the cheerleaders foster better school spirit, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity turned to Heitz and said, “You go for it, Granny!”

On that day, Dottie became Granny and a tradition was born. Heitz began to build the spirit squad, which became known as the “Granny Girls.” With their hats and bright red outfits, the squad became a staple at Matador football and basketball games, and many other special occasions. The success of the Granny Girls led to the creation of today’s Student Ambassadors program.

After graduating in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology, Heitz maintained an unofficial role as a spirit leader. At many current CSUN sporting events, one can expect to see her in a bright red outfit passing out candy to spectators and handing balloons to children. She has been a friend and adviser to every campus president, a donor, a member of the Matador Athletic Association board, and a member of the Alumni Association.

Alma Zatarain

Dorothea “Granny” Heitz Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership

It is fitting that Alma Zatarain, 80, is one of the first to be presented a volunteer leadership award. Like Heitz, Zatarain has continually expressed her intangible loyalty to the university in many tangible ways. She and her husband, Mark Bowland, have attended countless Cal State Northridge athletic events, concerts and theatrical productions.

Zatarain’s participation led to greater knowledge and appreciation of the university’s academic program and, in turn, her continuing commitment to support the Oviatt Library. In 1989, then Alumni Association President Joe Tirado invited her to volunteer for CSUN. She later was elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors, served several terms on its executive committee, and rose to the role of vice president and president.

Zatarain’s alumni roles led to service on the Cal State Northridge Foundation, University Corporation and North Campus boards, as well as becoming a member of the Legislative Connection and a representative to the California State University Alumni Council.

Wayne Adelstein

Dorothea ‘Granny’ Heitz Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership

Wayne Adelstein, ’69, has earned a reputation as one of the most passionate, effective and committed business leaders, communicators and higher education advocates in the San Fernando Valley. He has been personally responsible for identifying and convincing dozens of volunteers to join him in support of his alma mater.

Through his company, Decision Publications, Adelstein publishes regional and community newspapers for more than 100,000 San Fernando Valley residents. Adelstein began his volunteer service as an adviser to the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Then

Manzanita Hall Selected for American Architecture Award

Cal State Northridge’s Manzanita Hall has been selected for a 2002 American Architecture Award from The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design. In a letter announcing the award, Christian K. Narkiewicz-Laine said the organization received hundreds of submissions for the 2002 awards from architecture firms across the United States. Only 41 projects were chosen for the award by a jury made up of members of the Icelandic Architects Association.

Manzanita Hall, which opened in fall 2001, is home to much of CSUN’s College of Arts, Media, and Communication, including its acclaimed cinema and television arts and journalism departments.

The building, which cost about $21 million, was designed by nationally recognized architect Robert A.M. Stern.
CSUN Names Business Auditorium for Alumnus Noski Family

Former AT&T Vice Chair Charles Noski is a 2002 CSUN Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Cal State Northridge has named a business lecture auditorium in honor of alumnus and former AT&T Vice Chairman Charles Noski and his wife, Lisa, for their long-time support of the university. The Charles H. and Lisa J. Noski Auditorium, which serves the CSUN’s College of Business and Economics, is located at the corner of Etiwanda Avenue and Plummer Street.

Michael Fronmüller, dean of the college, said naming the auditorium in honor of the Noskis is a fitting tribute to a couple that has given so much to the university. "Not only is he one of our alums, but he is an alumn who has not forgotten his college," Fronmüller said.

During a Friday, December 6 ceremony on campus with CSUN President Jolene Koester, Charles and Lisa Noski said they were honored to have the auditorium named for them, and were grateful to be able to give back to the community by supporting education.

"The quality education I received from Cal State Northridge almost 30 years ago was clearly the foundation for my future business and career accomplishments," said Charles Noski. "For me, and for many other graduates of the university, it was the beginning of a commitment to lifelong learning and an association with CSUN that has been an important and valued part of my personal and professional life."

Charles Noski graduated from CSUN in 1973 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. He earned a master’s degree in accounting in 1995 and is a 2002 CSUN Distinguished Alumni Award winner.

The A.S. Ticket Office in Nordhoff Hall sells tickets to many events on campus, except for some held by outside groups. The Ticket Office is open from 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-2488.

FOR PHOTO INFORMATION, CALL (818) 677-2130 or e-mail pubinfo@csun.edu

Recyclable

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Dr. Donald E. Bianchi Planetarium (west of Science 3 building) Recommended parking is Lot G4 along Zelzah Ave.

$5 adults and $3 children

Our Town

Director Vincent Dowling directs Thornton Wilder’s American classic.

Fri., Feb. 21, 8 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 22, 8 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 23, 3 p.m.

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