

Executive Summary of Testimony from National University

Little Hoover Commission Meeting

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Sacramento, California

Dr. Marie Schrup is the dean of the School of Education at National University. Dr. Schrup received her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Indiana University, her master's degree from the University of Arizona and her bachelor's degree from San Diego State University. From 1989 to July 2000, she served as a consultant to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Division of Professional Services, Program Evaluation and Research. For much of her career, Dr. Schrup has been involved in the design, implementation and accreditation of professional preparation programs for teachers. She has provided public policy advice to state agencies, postsecondary institutions, school districts, county offices of education, and professional organizations. Her professional involvement includes service as a member of the board of directors of the California Council on the Education of Teachers, the California Partnership Committee for Special Education and as State Co-Chair for Plan 2000: Strategic Implementation Plan for the California Comprehensive System of Personnel Development with the California Department of Education. Dr. Schrup has also served as a member of the executive committee of the teacher education division of the California Council for Exceptional Children. Dr. Schrup has also been a classroom teacher and a principal. She was raised in California.

National University, founded in 1971, as an independent nonprofit institution of higher education, was among the first to focus on the unique needs of the adult learner. Today, the university is the second-largest, private institution in the California. Its distinctive and intensive one-course-per-month format, multiple locations, flexible programs and online degrees enable adults to complete graduate and undergraduate programs in an accelerated time frame.

With multiple locations across the state, National serves 25,000 students, 17,100 of whom are full-time. For the past three years, National has recommended more individuals to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing than any other single institution in the state. Since the university began offering teacher preparation programs in 1981, it has prepared over 22,000 individuals for California teaching credentials.

National University is dedicated to making lifelong learning opportunities accessible, challenging and relevant to a diverse population of adult learners. In 1999, the *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* ranked National University 11th among institutions in the United States in awarding master's degrees to Hispanic students in all disciplines. The U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems Survey (IPEDS) ranked National 16th among more than 3,000 institutions of higher learning in awarding master's degrees to African-American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American students.

The mission of National's School of Education is to prepare individuals from diverse backgrounds for lives of personal growth, professional dedication and community service. In addition to well-established programs in teacher education, the school offers a wide range of applied programs in special education, educational administration, educational technology, school psychology and educational counseling. National offers 15 credential programs and seven master's degrees designed for educators who wish to enhance their skills and professional expertise. The newest program, the Master of Arts in Teaching, has six core courses and four areas of specialization including Reading, Best Practices and Preparation for National Board Certification, Educational Technology and Teaching and Learning.

Through its School of Arts and Sciences, the university also offers a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with Multiple Subject Matter Equivalency, approved by the CCTC. A Bachelor of Science in Mathematics includes courses for a concentration in single subject teaching, as does the Bachelor of Arts in English.

All institutions must meet state standards for teacher preparation. However, the average age of students at National is 32, and 90% of them are employed full-time. Dr. Schrup will discuss how the relationship between the state and private institutions might be enhanced to improve California's ability to recruit, prepare and retain an adequate supply of well-qualified classroom teachers and school administrators.