

This week, Vickie Chamberlain announced her retirement from state service after a long and distinguished career in educational leadership. As a teacher, K-12 advocate, leader of the state's community college association, and in her 13 years of exceptional service as Executive Director of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, she has served as an example of what public service truly is, and can be.

Vickie is only the third executive director in the history of TSPC since its establishment as a free-standing agency in 1973. Her professionalism and perseverance in improving educator licensing in Oregon is an example for anyone charged with such great public trust. Highlights of Vickie's many significant accomplishments include:

- Decreased the agency backlogs and increased customer service, even in difficult budget years.
- Managed an extraordinarily complex and difficult teacher licensure redesign process over the course of three years. The redesign eliminated previous inconsistencies and developed a license that is contemporary and reflects an educator's experience.
- Revised our teacher preparation licensure programs to align with national standards and began implementation of a more rigorous program review process.
- Improved cultural awareness for educators by advocating for culturally responsive pedagogy, practices and accountability measures in educator preparation. Such instruction was monitored by one of the first ethics test in the nation for educators that included elements of culturally responsive pedagogy.
- Implemented the first on-demand web-based licensure tests in the nation for educator licensure. The system allowed for faster results and more easily scheduled testing at lower costs.
- Proposed a uniform performance assessment for all teacher preparation programs. The Commission is in the middle of implementation with a final effective date in 2018.
- Prepared for development of an online application system with an anticipated launch date of January 1, 2016.
- Increased transparency by publishing a Licensure Handbook with greater clarity regarding assignments for endorsements for the field and for educators.
- Reviewed and updated all of the administrative rules and eliminated obsolete rules; standardized rule forms and provided a clear connection between rule amendments and commission policy.

- Revised the commission meeting format so that commissioners are more actively involved in all policy discussions, licensure program approval, rule revisions and investigation determinations at the appropriate level for an active governance board.

Thirteen years is a long time in the world of state agency management and we are grateful to have had the stability of Vickie's tenure as well as her varied expertise and professional contributions.. We are thankful for all she has provided to the educators and student of Oregon who have in turn benefitted from her professionalism and management skills.

Those of us who have worked with Vickie have come to appreciate her as a person as well as an education leader. Her intelligence, resilience, work ethic, sense of humor and profound humanity make her a joy to work with. We wish her well as her journey continues.

The Commission will begin a search process for a new Executive Director in November.



Heidi Sipe
Teacher Standards and Practices Chairperson