

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 5, 2022

CONTACT

Matt Vanover
(217) 341-3849

Matt.Vanover@caepnet.org

CAEP Names Four New Members to Board of Directors

WASHINGTON – The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) announced the election of four new members to the CAEP Board of Directors. Francis (Skip) Fennell, Gerardo Munoz, Denise Pearson and Allyson Watson have been elected to the CAEP Board of Directors.

“We are excited to announce the addition of these educational leaders to our Board,” said CAEP President Christopher A. Koch. “All four bring unique perspectives to the CAEP Board of Directors with their differing backgrounds, but they all share a passion for preparing teachers and administrators to be sufficiently prepared to ensure students of all backgrounds receive equal opportunity in the classroom.”

New Board Members:

- **Francis (Skip) Fennell** is professor emeritus of Education at McDaniel College, where he also directed the Elementary Mathematics Specialists and Teacher Leaders Project supported by the Wisconsin Institute of Mathematics. A mathematics educator with experience as a classroom teacher, principal, and supervisor of instruction, he is a past president of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE), the Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML) and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

Widely published in professional journals and textbooks related to PreK-8 mathematics education, and the work of mathematics specialists, Dr. Fennell has also played key leadership roles with the National Science Foundation, Mathematical Sciences Education Board and the U.S. National Commission on Mathematics Instruction. He served as a writer for the Principles and Standards for School Mathematics (NCTM, 2000), the Curriculum Focal Points (NCTM, 2006), and for the Common Core State Standards (CCSSO, 2010). He also served on the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (2006-2008) and as a member of the CAEP Commission (2012-2013).

Dr. Fennell earned his bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, Mathematics emphasis, from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania; a master’s degree in Elementary Education, Guidance, from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania; and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, Mathematics Education, from The Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Fennell’s term runs through June 30, 2025.

- **Gerardo A. Muñoz** of Denver, Colorado, is a high school and middle school social studies teacher at the Denver Center for International Studies (DCIS) at Baker in the Denver Public Schools (DPS) district. He was named Colorado's 2021 Teacher of the Year in a virtual ceremony previously held on Oct. 29, 2020. He has taught every grade from 6-12 and currently teaches grades 7 and 10-12. His classes include concurrent enrollment ethnic studies, Advanced Placement world history and 5280 Challenge/Student Board of Education through DPS's Student Voice and Leadership program. Mr. Muñoz has been involved in numerous programs, initiatives, campaigns, and organizations to promote equity and antiracism, including EduColor, Choose, the National Education Association's Racial and Social Justice Conference, and the University of Colorado's Teachers of Color and Allies Summit. Muñoz holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and Latin American studies from the University of Colorado (1999), as well as a Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction from the University of Denver (2009).

Mr. Muñoz's term runs through June 30, 2024.

- **Denise Pearson** serves as Vice Chancellor, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She joined the PA State System in August 2020 with three decades of experience in the classroom and as campus leader, including having served as assistant provost of faculty affairs and then interim dean/senior associate dean of the School of Education and Human Performance at Winston-Salem State University and associate academic dean at the University of Denver. Pearson previously served as vice president for academic affairs and equity initiatives at the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO).

Dr. Pearson earned her Ph.D. in administration and supervision of education from Marquette University and master's degrees in conflict resolution from the University of Denver and educational administration from Concordia University. Her undergraduate studies were at the State University of New York at Delhi and Pace University.

Dr. Pearson's term runs through June 30, 2023.

- **Allyson L. Watson** serves as Dean for the College of Education at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). Dr. Watson has focused her research on innovation in education, STEM in urban education, women and faculty of color in higher education, and urban school and university partnerships. She is a full professor and tenured graduate faculty with substantial teaching and research experience in educational research, advanced educational measurements and statistics, public school relations, and instructional strategies. Dr. Watson spent over 20 years teaching and leading in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her work in north Tulsa shaped her passion for encouraging teachers to include accurate history within culturally responsive pedagogy. Dr. Watson has secured over \$10 million dollars in grant funding as PI or Co-PI on federal and state funded initiatives. Dr. Watson's largest foundation secured funded project allowed for the first Chevron FabLab and makerspace at the FAMU College of Education and FAMU Developmental Research School. Additionally, Dr. Watson was instrumental in securing a legislative budget allocation for \$750K to increase literacy for imprisoned males.

Dr. Watson's term runs through June 30, 2025.

The CAEP Board of Directors is responsible for creating CAEP policy, handling appointments to the Accreditation Council and various committees, and reviewing the performance and activities of CAEP. The Board is also responsible for approving the organization's annual budget and independent audits.

CAEP is a national accrediting body for educator preparation recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement. CAEP was created by the consolidation of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. It is a uniform accreditation system intent on raising the performance of all providers focused on educator preparation. Currently, approximately 650 educator preparation providers participate in the CAEP accreditation system.

###

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (www.CAEPnet.org) advances equity and excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.