

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CAEP Names Three New Members to Board of Directors**

WASHINGTON – The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) announced the election of three new members to the CAEP Board of Directors. Noel Candelaria, Lindsey Jensen, and Tes Mehring 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. “They each 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:**

**Noel Candelaria** is the Secretary-Treasurer of the National Education Association, where his primary responsibility is managing and maintaining the Association’s multimillion-dollar budget. Candelaria is the Immediate Past President of the Texas State Teachers Association and previously worked as a special education teacher and teacher’s aide in the Ysleta Independent School District. Candelaria was recently appointed by President Biden to the President’s Advisory Committee on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics.

Candelaria is the son of hard-working immigrants who instilled in him at a very early age the importance of education and the opportunities that a quality public education can provide. He and his wife Patty, a National Board-Certified Teacher, are tireless advocates committed to the success of every student. He believes our public schools must provide every student the best opportunity to fulfill their individual potential.

Candelaria’s term runs through June 30, 2026.

**Dr. Lindsey Jensen** is the 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year, the 2020 NEA Foundation for Teaching Excellence Illinois Awardee, and the Vice-President of the Illinois State Teachers of the Year. Dr. Jensen has delivered more than 100 keynote speeches across the country and her work has been featured in the IL-ASCD, NEA Today Education Post, and *Flip the System US: How Teachers can Transform Education and Save Democracy*.

Dr. Jensen's career in education spans 18 years and she currently serves as the Executive Director for Educators Rising Illinois. She is also the Director for the Illinois Educators Association's Early Career Development & Aspiring Educators.

Dr. Jensen's term runs through June 30, 2026.

**Dr. Tes Mehring** is completing her 48<sup>th</sup> year as an educator and currently serves as the major advisor to more than 50 doctoral students and as a faculty member in the Leadership in Higher Education doctoral program. She has been a school psychologist in three states and has also served as the Dean of Schools of Education and as Provost at Emporia State University and Baker University. She has been a member of the Boards of Directors and Executive Council for the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE), the Renaissance Group, and Kansas Council for Exceptional Children.

Dr. Mehring has published 5 books, 42 chapters in professional books, and presented at more than 70 national and international conferences. She has received numerous awards including the Renaissance Group Leadership Award, AACTE Edward C. Pomeroy Award and Distinguished Professor of the Year from the International Council for Learning Disabilities among others.

Dr. Mehring will serve as the Accreditation Council Vice Chair.

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 600 educator preparation providers participate in the CAEP accreditation system.

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***The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation ([www.CAEPnet.org](http://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.***