



Western Catholic Educational Association  
Catholic Schools Accrediting Commission



A newsletter for Catholic Schools  
accredited by the Western Catholic  
Educational Association

# WCEA NEWS

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

### 2015

[www.westwcea.org](http://www.westwcea.org)



## SPOTLIGHT

### Br. William on Accreditation Protocols:

The new secondary protocol, Ensuring Educational Excellence (E3), has been approved for full use by all agencies required to do so. As of this writing, all of our Catholic secondary schools will be using the new protocol.

The elementary protocol, Improving Student Learning (ISL), is solidly in place, and the schools have adjusted well to its implementation.



## MEMBER DIOCESES

Catholic Schools in the following dioceses are members of the Western Catholic Educational Association.

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Archdiocese of Agana, Guam       | Archdiocese of Portland, OR      |
| Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA   | Archdiocese of San Francisco, CA |
| Archdiocese of Seattle, WA       | Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM      |
| Diocese of Fresno, CA            | Diocese of Boise, ID             |
| Diocese Great Falls-Billings, MT | Diocese of Gallup, NM            |
| Diocese of Honolulu, HI          | Diocese of Helena, MT            |
| Diocese of Monterey, CA          | Diocese of Las Vegas, NV         |
| Diocese of Phoenix, AZ           | Diocese of Orange, CA            |
| Diocese of Salt Lake City, UT    | Diocese of Reno, NV              |
| Diocese of San Diego, CA         | Diocese of San Bernardino, CA    |
| Diocese of San Jose, CA          | Diocese of Santa Rosa, CA        |
| Diocese of Spokane, WA           | Diocese of Stockton, CA          |
| Diocese of Tucson, AZ            | Diocese of Yakima, WA            |

26 MEMBER DIOCESES  
10 STATES & GUAM  
OVER 290,000 STUDENTS

# THE FOCUS OF ACCREDITATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF  
THE ROLE OF WCEA  
ACCREDITATION IN  
ENSURING CONTINUING  
EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING.

The WCEA accreditation protocols for both elementary and secondary schools look at all aspects of Catholic Identity, curriculum, financial resources management, and teacher lifelong learning through 14 standards represented in both protocols.

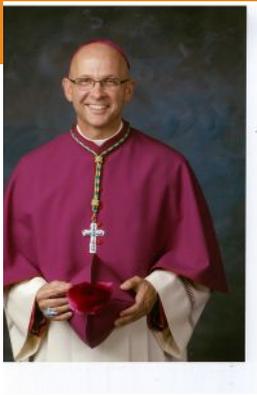
The protocols are reviewed annually by the WCEA Elementary and Secondary Commissioners and are adapted to meet both the general expectations of any Catholic school, and also the specific needs of schools given the cultural differences and experiences.



ALL STUDENTS HAVE  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
LEARN.

ALL SCHOOL FACULTY  
MEMBERS INCORPORATE  
CATHOLIC IDENTITY  
INTO EVERY AREA OF  
CAMPUS LIFE.

ALL SCHOOLS ARE ABLE  
TO BE FINANCIALLY  
SUPPORTED.



Welcome to the Diocese of  
Gallup and Bishop James Wall

The Diocese of Gallup serves  
over 1,300 students in 13 schools.

*"Our schools must be centers of  
the New Evangelization so that we  
may announce Christ not just to-  
day or tomorrow, but for life."*

WCEA SERVED 938 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN  
2013-2014 AND OVER 290,000 STUDENTS



# THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The commissions at WCEA work throughout the year on training and preparing schools for their self-studies.



## The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of WCEA serve as the Executive Team of WCEA with regard to strategic planning, fiscal management and has an agenda for discussion of such topics as expansion to other states, any structural changes that would make the agency function better, and an ongoing evaluation of the agency.



## The Committee of Consulters

The Committee of Consulters are the representatives that are appointed by the (Arch)Bishop of the Diocese and meet annually to review the prior year's accomplishments, discuss the WCEA strategic plan, review the annual report. This committee can advise the Bishops' wishes with regard to accreditation of Catholic Schools under their jurisdiction.



## The Elementary Commission

The Elementary Commission is responsible for developing the Self-Study Protocol, any handbooks for schools, chairs and teams, the Report of Findings used by Visiting Teams, and the direct accreditation of all schools up for accreditation in a given year. This accreditation meeting takes place in May.



## The Secondary Commission

The Secondary Commission is also responsible for creating the Self-Study Protocol and all documents necessary for the training of visiting teams, Visiting Team Reports, and any other documents pertinent to the accreditation of secondary schools. The Secondary Commission also meets in May to conduct the actual accreditation of the secondary schools up for accreditation in a given year.



## AROUND WCEA

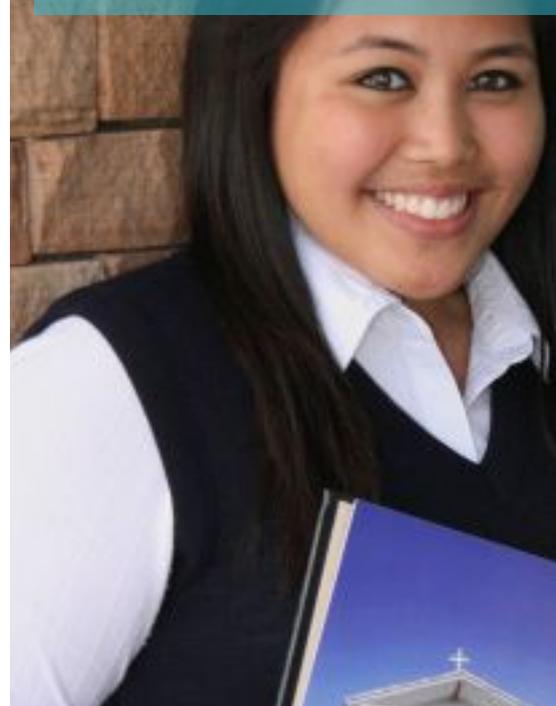
### FROM OUR COMMISSIONS

WCEA Accrediting Commissions awarded accreditation to 164 schools in May 2014.

We are keeping our eyes on the development of Common Core in our schools in order to see how, if anything, it may affect what we do in accreditation. All of these kinds of curriculum development can lead to different approaches of evaluating their effectiveness with our students and, of course, how we integrate our Catholic identity into these frameworks.



How do students learn? How do we assist in the learning process?



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **GREG DHUYVETTER**

Board Chair  
Orange

### **TOM BUTLER**

Board Vice Chair  
Stockton

### **DUANE SCHAFER**

Board Treasurer  
Spokane

### **BR. WILLIAM CARRIERE, FSC**

Board Secretary  
WCEA

## BOARD MEMBERS

### **SR. CATHERINE KAMPHAUS, CSC**

Salt Lake City

### **KAY PURCELL**

Seattle

### **GAIL SHERMAN**

Sacramento

### **TRICIA VESELY**

San Bernardino



## FROM BR. WILLIAM CARRIERE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As noted on our cover page I have been working around the member dioceses since October in training chairs for the upcoming accreditation season. Over the last year working on updating the elementary ISL protocol and the secondary E3 protocol the following items will be of particular note to our schools beginning their self study process.

Within the last two years the Chair training for E3 has been quite successful in that the Chairs express an ease with using E3 and the Visiting Committee Report of Findings. The evaluations offered by these Chairs has assisted WCEA in making the kind of adjustments that better meet the needs for a successful accreditation.





WCEA STAFF

BR. WILLIAM CARRIERE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
& JODY PRICE DRITSCHEL,  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS SOON  
WILL CELEBRATE WCEA'S  
TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
SERVING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

TEN YEARS WITH  
WCEA MEMBERS!



FAITH



COMMUNITY

EXCELLENCE



# FROM OUR STUDENTS

Past and Present Students from around WCEA talk about what their Catholic education means to them.

**Katelyn**  
Grade 8

My Catholic education is important to me because it helps me to live as Jesus did in my daily life. It enables me to know the importance of believing in God and spreading his message to others. In receiving a Catholic education, I am able to grow spiritually and faithfully with my classmates as we venture out on this journey of faith.

**Matthew**  
Freshman - Marist College

I attended Catholic Elementary School and Catholic High School in San Diego. I currently attend Marist College, a private university in upstate New York. While Marist is considered a private university there continue to be Marist brothers living on campus. I am glad that I continue to have such a Catholic influence on my education.

Catholic educators set high standards for their students. I've never felt ill prepared when being faced with new challenges because of the education I've received. Aside from academics, going to Catholic school has given me a strong sense of community and faith. Feeling part of a community and having faith has given me support while I am experiencing new things and going to new places.

**David**  
Grade 12

Now that I am about to go out into the world on my own, I've come to value my faith as extremely important to me, and it is a much more intense faith than the one I had before. Catholic education has given me a great blend of practical and technical knowledge and spiritual guidance. Before sitting down for that physics quiz in the morning, I get to take time to start my day off by asking God for the strength and wisdom to keep pushing forward.

The words that start every prayer at La Salle are, by far, the most reassuring thing I have experienced during my time here: "Let us remember ... That we are in the holy presence of God." I like this little proclamation for two reasons: It reminds me that we are in the holy presence of God, but it also places responsibility on us for recognizing that. God's presence is not something tangible that I can see or touch; rather, it's something that just is. It's something that surrounds us and permeates the air wherever you go. We are in the holy presence of God, but it's up to us to remember



## OUR FUTURE



**Anna**  
BA Communicative Disorders  
Graduate Program - Clinician of  
Speech-Language Pathology

Having the opportunity to attend Catholic elementary, middle, and high school has embedded in me a moral compass comprised of compassion, understanding, and a desire to help other individuals within my community.

It was much more than superior academics which included excellent and memorable instructors, attending religious studies classes, and participation opportunities during Mass. A Catholic education allowed me the opportunity to evaluate who I am and who I want to continue to be in this world within the context of God's love for all creation.



## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

This has been another blessed year of success and growth for the Western Catholic Educational Association as we have worked together to forward our mission of Catholic accreditation for Catholic schools of the West. 2013-14 was truly a year of movement for WCEA in many ways.

The most significant movement of the year was the ongoing growth and adoption of the secondary accreditation protocol, Ensuring Educational Excellence (E3). This protocol, specifically designed for the realities of our schools, provides strong direction in the ongoing task of school improvement. While the protocol is still being revised and fine-tuned, the second pilot year saw more schools participating and strong positive reviews by school and Visiting Committee leadership. With the addition of this secondary protocol to the elementary ISL protocol, WCEA now exclusively uses its own instruments that recognize and support the mission and identity of Catholic schools.

The WCEA Board and Commissioners moved "out of state" for their twice yearly meetings. After many years in Ontario, the meetings took place in Las Vegas, a location more accessible to Commissioners and Board Members. This move reflected the growing reality of WCEA as an organization not of California, but of the entire West, growth that was seen in the addition of the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico.

As Brother William mentioned, the main headquarters made a small move and a great jump. Though the office maintains its zip code in the north of Orange County, the new facility has a far better location. The new office has better facilities and room to grow.

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's movement and growth, and we look forward to another great year in 2014-15!

Greg Dhuyvetter





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WESTERN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
[www.westwcea.org](http://www.westwcea.org)

"A Catholic education really goes beyond and stretches you and challenges you and its not just what you learn in the classroom, it lingers on and it doesn't leave you and you really have to face those challenges that are in the world but you address them with confidence and support of what the Catholic faith has taught."

an excerpt from *"Profiles in Faith: Voices of our Students"*  
WCEA Website [www.westwcea.org/video-links/](http://www.westwcea.org/video-links/)



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