



A newsletter for Catholic Schools accredited by Western Catholic Educational Association

WCEA NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

2016

www.westwcea.org



MEMBER DIOCESES

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

SPOTLIGHT

Br. William Carriere, FSC, Ph.D. on WCEA Accreditation - Over the Years:

Greetings in this new year of 2016. Today I begin the last six months of my time as your Executive Director of WCEA. The past eleven years have been very good ones for me. After serving at some level of administration in schools or dioceses for 42 years, this administrative position afforded me an opportunity to concentrate on the quality of our Catholic schools rather than manage a lot of people (and all that goes with administration in schools and dioceses).

Page 3

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



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

JODY PRICE DRITSCHEL

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS

SCHOOLS SCHEDULED FOR ACCREDITATION
IN 2016

135
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

24
SECONDARY SCHOOLS



PRESIDENT

Bishop Edward Clark, STD
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Br. William Carriere, FSC, Ph.D.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Butler
Chair
Diocese of Stockton

Sr. Catherine Kamphaus, CSC
Vice Chair
Diocese of Salt Lake City

Duane Schafer, Ph.D.
Treasurer
Diocese of Spokane

Br. William Carriere, FSC, Ph.D.
Secretary

Gregory Dhuyvetter
Diocese of Orange

Gail Sherman
Diocese of Sacramento

Catherine Thompson
Diocese of Las Vegas

Patricia Vesely
Diocese of San Bernardino

WITH WCEA'S TWO RECENT FOUNDATIONAL CHANGES – THE ELECTION OF OUR PRESIDENT (BISHOP EDWARD CLARK) AND OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S (BR. WILLIAM CARRIERE, FSC, PH.D.) MOMENTOUS DECISION TO RETIRE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR – WCEA, THUS OUR BOARD, THE COMMISSION, AND MYSELF, BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CHANGE THAT I EXPECT WILL CONTINUE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

ALREADY THE COMMISSIONS ARE LOOKING AT...

- OUR TWO MEETINGS A YEAR AND WAYS TO SAVE TIME TO ALLOW OUR COMMISSIONERS MORE TIME AT THEIR DAILY JOBS
- THE PROCESS FOR FINDING CHAIRS OF VISITING COMMITTEES
- TRAINING FOR OUR NEW COMMISSIONERS AS WELL AS CONTINUING COMMISSIONERS
- USING TECHNOLOGY FOR TRAINING VIA WEBINARS

FOR THE PAST YEARS, BR. WILLIAM, THE BOARD, AND THE WCEA COMMISSIONS, ACHIEVED MUCH SUCCESS MOLDING THIS AGENCY INTO A UNIQUE, SCHOOL-SUPPORTIVE MODEL THAT CONTINUES BEYOND THE ACCREDITATION CYCLES. THAT'S A GREAT FOUNDATION WITH WHICH TO BUILD UPON. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR SCHOOLS AND WORK TO FIND WAYS TO HELP THE COMMISSIONERS DO ALL THAT THEY DO FOR THEIR SCHOOLS AND WCEA. I'M SO VERY GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS PROCESS.

JODY PRICE DRITSCHEL
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS



THE ACCREDITATION UPDATES

The Commissions at WCEA work throughout the year on training and preparing schools for their Self Studies and upcoming visits.



Trainings

Trainings for Chairs and School Leadership Teams are scheduled throughout the year and begin in September/October. Please consult the WCEA website for scheduling information at:

<http://www.westwcea.org/documents/training-schedules/>



Accreditation Materials

Both ISL and E3 protocols are available on the WCEA website. All supporting forms and documents, including training, are available there as well. Forms and documents are reviewed annually and, if changed, would be updated and replaced on this website.



The Elementary Commission

The Elementary Commission Meeting for this year will take place on:

May 2 & 3, 2016
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Commission Chair: Catherine Thompson

Vice Chair: Sally Todd



The Secondary Commission

The Secondary Commission Meeting for this year will take place on:

May 4, 2016
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Commission Chair: Mike Rockers

Vice Chair: To be elected

Please work with your (Arch) Diocesan Commissioner to ensure you have submitted all required documents if your school is being accredited in 2016.



Download the WCEA Fact Sheet from the [WCEA Home Page](#)

ELEMENTARY COMMISSION

As Western Catholic Education Association continues the celebration of its tenth anniversary, the Elementary Commissioners continue their work in furthering the mission. Our September 2015 meeting welcomed six new Commissioners and promoted extensive discussions with plans to better serve the needs of our Catholic schools. Recommendations included the implementation of a new meeting schedule for Commissioners, updating the WCEA website, and expanding School Leadership and Visiting Committee training. The topic of assisting Commissioners with the selection of Chairs for their teams was another area of discussion. During our May 2016 meeting, we plan to address and create a formal process for the selection of Visiting Committee Chairs. We now look forward to continuing the celebration of our tenth year and assisting schools with their accreditations. May they find the experience rewarding in affirming their successes while planning for their futures.

Mrs. Catherine Thompson
Diocese of Las Vegas
Chair, Elementary Commission

SECONDARY COMMISSION

I have seen continual improvement in the work of the Secondary Commissioners. The new Ensuring Educational Excellence (E3) protocol, along with the great work being done by those who serve on our Secondary school Visitation Committees, have combined to improve the accreditation process. It has also helped to simplify and improve the work of the Secondary Commissioners, especially the Reading Teams which review each school's Self Study, Accreditation Status recommendations, and other documentation prior to voting on the status of accreditation. I am proud of the Secondary Commissioners' work. Their faith, professionalism, collaboration, and servant leadership is inspiring. As new Secondary Commissioners come on board, we need to help them succeed by providing the information and in-services they need to help our Commission remain effective, efficient, and focused on serving those schools we serve.

Dr. Mike Rockers
Diocese of Honolulu
Chair, Secondary Commission

FROM BR. WILLIAM CARRIERE, FSC, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thanks and Farewell:

Greetings in this new year of 2016. Today I begin the last six months of my time as your Executive Director of WCEA. The past eleven years have been very good ones for me. After serving at some level of administration in schools or dioceses for 42 years, this administrative position afforded me an opportunity to concentrate on the quality of our Catholic schools rather than manage a lot of people (and all that goes with administration in schools and dioceses).

While the routine processes and procedures of accreditation in WCEA moved along year after year, I was often able to visit schools in our various eleven states and witness that quality. I define that quality as a school that maintains an integration of our Faith into the very fibers of the school. Just by doing that such schools have a high quality curriculum that meets the needs of the students it serves, dedicated teachers and administrators, and a vibrant community of parents and students as well as interested people who may not be part of the school community but support the school because of what it does for students.

I can demonstrate that by using two schools I recently visited in two different dioceses. One is a very small Native American elementary school. The students in that school are learning their Indian dialect (taught by the grandmothers in some cases) as well as all of the other required subject areas. I was immediately impressed by the students, dressed in their clean and crisp uniforms, standing up to greet me when I came into their classrooms. The principal asked them to tell me what they were learning as we came in. All hands went up in the air; everyone wanting to answer. While the actual school is one of the earliest Catholic schools in that part of our country, the original buildings and the newer ones are bright and clean, and the constant hum of learning cannot be missed. Clearly the students are happy to be there, and many of them told me how they look forward to school each day. I witnessed a school clearly integrated with our Faith and a program that is meeting the needs of each of the students.

The other school is a rather large Catholic, diocesan high school. Its enrollment is about 1450, a "new" campus of only eight years (the school has actually been in existence for 61 years), and multiple programs including a fairly new learning center for those students who have special learning needs. The campus sits on 54 acres with multiple buildings. I had the opportunity to sit with some students for lunch (that lunch period serving 700 students). The enthusiasm among the ones I interviewed at random was simply thrilling. Football players could not say enough good things about their academic programs, their retreat experiences often lead by a math teacher, and the genuine concern for them demonstrated by all school staff. Once again I witnessed a school fully integrated with our Faith and meeting the needs of the students it serves.

Do these two schools have issues with which they will have to deal in the future? Yes, of course. But both schools have plans in place to address these issues. Both schools I would accredit immediately---and with "highest honors" if we did such a thing.





I have experienced schools that had serious issues that needed special attention. I could safely say that the gamut is from A to Z on that. I will say emphatically that thanks to the dedication of our WCEA elementary and secondary Commissioners, each of these schools have the opportunity to improve and actually settle many of the issues within a given time frame. I thank God for our Commissioners. I have so enjoyed working with all of them. I have worked tirelessly to be open and flexible, an absolute requirement for the Executive Director, due to the distinct and unique school communities WCEA serves. For me, WCEA has been able to assist our schools with their necessary improvements.

It has been a fast eleven years. I think that some considerations for the new ED will include working with the various states for complete recognition of WCEA as an independent, qualified Accrediting Agency, and more specifically, for WCEA to be fully recognized by the various colleges and universities. This is a challenge that some other private accrediting agencies have been working with for some time. Another issue for the new ED will be the consistency in training for schools, Chairs, and teams.

As I said before, I have truly enjoyed being the first Executive Director and having the challenge of setting up the Corporation. It is time for change. Some research on leadership shows that about eight to ten years is a good length of stay on the job. I have put 54 years in Catholic school education, and I have witnessed many changes over the years. This position for me is the best one on which to end my professional career. I plan on doing some writing in my retirement. I am hoping to write a book about my experiences in Catholic education----no research---just from practical experience. I hope to do some of that writing while cruising the Danube or the like.

Thank you to all of you for all you have done for me during my time. Personal thanks to Janet Parsons, our first Associate Director of Operations, who was so instrumental in getting all in order for establishing our Corporation and this office. For Faith Manners who set up our marketing program and website (and continues to this day) and also helped to set up the office, including putting furniture together. For Jody Dritschel, our current Associate Director for Operations, and all that she has done to keep us all in order and continually updated.

May God bless all of you, and know that you will always be in my prayers as you work to keep our Catholic schools alive and in good health!

Br. William Carriere, FSC, Ph.D.
Executive Director, WCEA



CELEBRATING
OUR FAITH



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AROUND WCEA!

St. Norbert Catholic School loves to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week! This special time set aside each year amplifies our gratefulness for our faith, for the family we are to each other, and for the gift of learning we enjoy each day at our school. We celebrate our clergy, our parents, our community members, our faculty and staff, and our students with special events that bring us together in the joy of a life lived among family, following the Gospel. We thank the NCEA for making this great opportunity possible!--

*Mr. Joseph A. Ciccoianni, Principal
St. Norbert Catholic School
Orange, California*



Joy

Gratefulness for our faith

The gift of learning

*The family we are
to each other*



Catholic Schools Week is very big here. We have an annual geography bee, annual spelling bee, dress-up days each day, a celebration of a corporal works of mercy (one per), and the Super Bowl, a touch football championship.

*Ms. Lauren Smith, Principal
St. Matthew Catholic School
Kalispell, MT*

Students at Little Flower School in Reno, Nevada, participate in Christian service with their annual Catholic Schools Week individual-use toiletry drive for Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, exemplifying a "little way" to serve others.

*Bri Thoreson, Principal
Little Flower School
Reno, Nevada*

Catholic Schools is all about celebrating who we are. That means starting our week with mass with the Eucharist as the center of our lives. Then we have fun testing our knowledge about our faith against each other, proclaim our spirit loudly cheering and dance, as grade levels and staff at our spirit contest, serve our neighboring community through a schooled service project, and finally, sharing our spirit as we go out into the community representing our school.

*Cindy Olaso, Principal
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Pearl City, Hawaii*



WE DEDICATE THIS ISSUE OF THE WCEA NEWSLETTER TO THE STUDENTS, FACULTIES, AND ADMINISTRATORS DURING OUR CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2016!

WESTERN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
www.westwcea.org

"I have grown so much while I am here. No matter where I go, I know my faith will always be with me, and I will always have that sense of where I am in my belonging. I like having a chapel on campus so I can go to a quiet place and talk to God and express my feelings."

"At a Catholic school, your teachers really care about you and want you to succeed, and that is really evident in how they teach your class and make sure you are doing ok and ask you questions and talk with your family and your parents to make sure you are on track."

An excerpt from *"Profiles in Faith: Voices of our Students"*
WCEA Website www.westwcea.org/video-links/



Western Catholic Educational Association
101 S. Kraemer Blvd., Suite 115
Placentia CA 92870
Tel. 714/447-9834 Fax 714/447-9846
www.westwcea.org