

MAKING THE GRADE IN MANY LOCATIONS



Don Burnard



Karen Davis



David Haney

Throughout its many locations, the School of Education is building ties with local school districts and researching ways to reach out to private schools, according to Dr. Darrel Falk, dean of the School of Education. For example, PLNU's Preliminary Administrative Credential (Tier I) Program for teachers who want to become administrators has unique partnerships in local school districts where PLNU faculty teach working educators on their own turf—in the districts' school buildings.

In addition, since 2003, about 200 educators have signed up for PLNU's Professional Administration Credential (Tier II) Program—100 of them from Riverside County, according to Dr. Beverly Foster, coordinator of the administrative service credentials program.

Dr. Foster is also excited about a new opportunity she is overseeing: an internship program established in partnership with school districts for potential administrators who do not yet have credentials. In this program, an agreement is drawn up between the district and PLNU, and the intern begins work as an administrator while taking graduate education courses.

These are just a few examples of how the PLNU School of Education locations are active members of their communities, tailoring their programs to meet the unique needs of the growing student populations and striving to be Christ-centered beacons of excellence and faith. Here's a snapshot of each:

PLNU ARCADIA

When Pasadena College moved to San Diego in 1973, a vibrant remnant of the school remained on the Pasadena campus to continue offering a graduate education program to the Los Angeles area. Twenty-eight years later the operation moved to its new home in nearby Arcadia.

"Today PLNU Arcadia continues to be

well regarded in its community, offering courses at convenient times for working and non-traditional students," said Arcadia Director Karen Davis. "It gives people who work in nearby school districts or are changing careers, as well as alumni who have relocated to the Arcadia area, an opportunity to continue their studies with PLNU."

Visit www.ptloma.edu/arcadia for more information.

PLNU BAKERSFIELD

Located in the culturally rich San Joaquin Valley, PLNU Bakersfield is committed to serving Kern County and the surrounding areas. Like PLNU Arcadia, Bakersfield has a stellar reputation in the community and among professionals, according to Bakersfield Director Don

Burnard. PLNU Bakersfield is the only private institution bringing a Christian mission to the area. Established in 1998 to help address the statewide teacher shortage, the Bakersfield location has expanded from its initial offering of multiple-subject and single-subject teaching credentials to a wide variety of credentials and master's degrees.

Additional offerings are planned in the future at Bakersfield and services will soon be offered in nearby Visalia, as well. Burnard's vision is for PLNU to extend throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Burnard asserts, "As a Christ-centered, service-oriented learning community, it's not what we do in Bakersfield, it's who we are." Visit www.ptloma.edu/bakersfield for more information.

PLNU MISSION VALLEY

In 2000, Point Loma Nazarene University renovated a 55,000-square-foot, four-story facility in San Diego's Mission Valley area, creating office and classroom space for its expanding graduate programs. The largest graduate program is the School of Education, overseen by Dean Darrel Falk.

PLNU Mission Valley offers degree and credential programs with a personal touch. A recent addition has been special education, which helps to meet the growing need in the education community. Visit www.ptloma.edu/missionvalley for more information.

OTHER LOCATIONS

Responding to California's growing need for public school administrators, last year PLNU launched a credential and graduate education studies program for residents of Corona and Chino in the Inland Empire region of Southern California.

In Corona, the first cohort of 53 students is nearly finished, reported David Haney, director of site development. The Chino cohort of 25 has resumed fall studies after a summer break. The demand at both locations exceeded Haney's expectations, and he's now working on setting up classes in Rancho Cucamonga.

Other possible locations include Temecula and Chula Vista. Both cities have invited PLNU to discuss the possibility of holding classes in regional educational centers they are building.

"More and more people are going back to school, and the state is requiring more training for teachers," said Haney. "The potential really is unlimited." ■

