

VII.H.

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

To Be Proposed:

June 5, 2024

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints the following individual to serve on the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2027, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
Dr. Mel L. Horton	Sacred Heart University	Dean of the Isabelle Farrington College of Education and Human Development	Sept. 30, 2027

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Signed: _____
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary
State Board of Education

**Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford**

To: State Board of Education

From: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

Date: June 5, 2024

Subject: State Board of Education Appointment to the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards (CACTPS)

Executive Summary

Introduction

Pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education (SBE) is required to appoint two members to the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, both of whom shall be a member of the faculty or administration of an SBE-approved teacher preparation program.

History/Background

The Council was established to (1) advise the SBE, the Governor, and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education concerning teacher preparation, teacher recruitment, teacher certification, teacher professional development, teacher assessment and evaluation, and teacher professional discipline; (2) review and comment upon all regulations and other standards concerning the approval of teacher preparation programs and teacher certification; (3) report to the SBE, the Governor, and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education annually on its activities and recommendations, if any, concerning the condition of the teaching profession; and (4) develop a code of professional responsibility for teachers not later than September 30, 1993.

On June 21, 1993, the SBE voted to adopt the code of professional responsibility located in the Regulations Concerning State Educator Certificates, Permits, and Authorizations (Section 10-145d-400(a)).

Recommendation and Justification

In order to restore full membership to the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, the following individual is recommended for appointment by the SBE:

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
Dr. Mel L. Horton	Sacred Heart University	Dean of the Isabelle Farrington College of Education and Human Development	Sept. 30, 2027

A short biography of this nominee can be found in **Attachment A**.

Follow-up Activity

If approved, this member will begin service effective September 1, 2024, and will be asked to attend the next Council meeting scheduled for September 27, 2024.

Prepared by: Sharon Fuller, Education Consultant
Talent Office

Reviewed by: Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Talent Office

Approved by: Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Deputy Commissioner
Educational Supports and Wellness



Dr. Mel L. Horton. Dr. Mel L. Horton is the Dean of the Isabelle Farrington College of Education and Human Development (FCEHD) at Sacred Heart University (SHU). The college consists of three departments: Teacher Education, Counselor Education, and Educational Literacy and Leadership. Program offerings include initial certification in secondary and elementary education, special education, and school counseling. Advanced certification options include educational leadership (building and district levels), remedial reading, and reading consultant. The college also offers several Sixth-Year degrees (Literacy, STEAM, SEAL, SPED), as well as a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and a Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs. There are two Doctor of Education options: Educational Leadership or Higher Education Leadership. Prior to her current role of dean, Dr. Horton was the associate dean of the FCEHD for 5.5 years where she led new program development, ongoing accreditation efforts, and management of the budget process.

Dr. Horton earned her Doctor of Education degree at the University of Virginia in adapted physical education with minors in research and instructional technology. Before entering the administrative ranks, she was a tenured associate professor at The Sage Colleges and Winthrop University. Dr. Horton's areas of interest are assessment and accreditation. Her interest in these areas extends beyond the SHU community in that she is a respected Lead Site Visitor for Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), having conducted many reviews over the past 10 years. This role involves reviewing and analyzing evidence to ensure that educator preparation programs are meeting national standards. Dr. Horton has also made significant contributions as an edTPA national academy consultant, conducting numerous invited workshops across the United States in the past eight years.