

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CERTIFICATION MAP UNVEILS THE WEB'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE, INTERACTIVE PORTAL FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

*--Online Tool Offers Custom, State-by-State Certification Information for Prospective Teachers--*

**LOS ANGELES (February 5, 2009)** – Certification Map today announced the launch of its new Web site, [CertificationMap.com](http://CertificationMap.com), a comprehensive online portal for current and prospective teachers to locate teaching certification requirements for every state in the country. CertificationMap.com is the first dedicated web site to customize information state-by-state, providing users with actionable information on attaining necessary certifications and offering guidance on the teaching profession.

CertificationMap.com is sponsored by MAT@USC, the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education's Master of Arts in Teaching program delivered online, the first of its kind from a major research university. The tool allows users to easily research certification requirements, including skill testing, subject area competence testing and pre-requisite coursework, among others. CertificationMap.com also provides easy click-through access to state Department of Education homepages, creating a convenient one-stop location for information from all 50 states.

"With quality teachers in demand, now more than ever, CertificationMap.com will serve as a tool to help alleviate the frustrations prospective teachers encounter while moving through the sometimes challenging certification process," said Dean Karen Symms Gallagher of the USC Rossier School of Education. "This is just one more step in our progressive strategy to bring more quality teachers to the workforce by making the entire end-to-end process as accessible and seamless as possible."

In addition to certification information, the site also provides a snapshot of the education environment in each state, including analyses on average state teaching salaries, student enrollment and rankings by state. Prospective and current teachers can also find relevant daily news articles on "The Credentials Blog" and discuss important issues with other industry

professionals and thought leaders on the interactive open forum. Those seeking to obtain certification can also seek additional information via a dedicated Facebook page and via continuous, streaming updates on Twitter, while simultaneously building a virtual community with peers.

“Certification Map goes beyond providing rich content to current and prospective teachers by offering them a portal to interact and participate in discussions with professionals from across the country, ensuring they are continually learning from their peers and sharing experiences,” said Jeremy Johnson, Chief Technology Officer of MAT@USC.

The MAT@USC combines online learning with carefully selected field-based experiences and provides ongoing support for new teachers, including job placement assistance and partial tuition reimbursement opportunities. For additional information on requirements and admissions, please visit <http://rossier.usc.edu/mat/> or call 1-888-628-1872.

#### **About Certification Map**

Certification Map ([www.certificationmap.com](http://www.certificationmap.com)) is the first dedicated comprehensive online portal that provides prospective teachers state-by-state information on obtaining certification. Sponsored by MAT@USC, Certification Map is a one-stop, interactive site supplying actionable information on certification requirements and guidance on the teaching profession.

#### **About the USC Rossier School of Education**

As part of the University of Southern California and located in the heart of urban Los Angeles, the USC Rossier (ross-EAR) School of Education is one of the world's premiere centers for the study of urban education, preparing teachers and educational leaders who are committed to strengthening urban education locally, nationally and globally. USC Rossier is leading the search for innovative solutions to the challenges in urban education, and creating mutually beneficial partnerships to rethink curricula, develop sound policy and improve educational environments. (<http://rossier.usc.edu>)

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