

## Professional & Community Life in the Education Department

**2023-2024**

<b>Fall Semester 2023</b>		
August	Yosemite Retreat	At Heather’s initiative and with considerable help from Heather’s husband Kurt (7 <sup>th</sup> grade history at La Colina), we had our first three-night Departmental Retreat at Yosemite, allowing candidates and faculty/staff to get know one another better. (This is something we did again this <i>past</i> August, as well, incorporating this year more math and literacy activity—along with a bit of science and social studies. All of that in addition to setting a wonderful tone for the year.)
August	Accreditation: <i>Preconditions</i>	The first of our departmental submissions leading up to the Accreditation Site Visit (Spring 2026), Institutional & Program <i>Preconditions</i> , were approved by the CTC.
September and throughout the year	Faculty Committee Work	Carolyn began her service on the Westmont faculty’s Program Review Committee. Andrew continued on the Budget & Salary Committee.
	Student Clubs	The Education Club, with Carolyn as Faculty Advisor, had a particularly successful year. Andrew has remained involved with the Students for Life and the Garden Club (Faculty Advisor, 2024-25.)
	Santa Barbara County Partners in Education Board, San Marcos Education Pathway Advisory Board....	Carolyn continues to serve on several education-related local boards, most notably the Partners in Education and San Marcos Education Pathways boards.
October	CCTE Conference	Carolyn attended the annual California Council for Teacher Education Conference in San Diego.
October	Educator Connections	Nicole Aoki (Class of 2020) from Coastline Christian Academy Grade 6; and Simon Janzen (Credential class of 2022) from San Marcos HS (Physics) shared meditations with a good turnout of at the annual Educator Connections event. Four gifted instrumentalists from the cohort provided music.
October	Breakfast with the Authors	Andrew continues to participate each year in this SBCOE-sponsored event—leading in this year’s case to the successful author visit to campus noted below.
November	Guest Speakers	Krista Munizich (Canalino Grade 1, CUSD) and Alison Heiduk (TOSA, HSD) spoke at Westmont, both in this case contributing to our candidates’ expertise in literacy.
December	Coastline Christian Academy	Kris Severson and the entire school community at Coastline provided a half-day of professional development for the elementary cohort of candidates .

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**Spring Semester & Summer 2024**

March	Guest Readers	Andrew and Carolyn separately visited local classrooms to read as part of Read across America Day.
March	CTC Accreditation Site Visit	Andrew served on a CTC Site Team Visit for Dominican University, San Rafael, as lead reviewer for Common Standards.
March	Academic Freedom Panel	Andrew served as one of three professors on Faculty Forum panel devoted to Academic Freedom.
April	Local YA author	Nikki Barthelme, the author of <i>The Quiet You Carry</i> and a just released 2 <sup>nd</sup> YA novel, came to Children’s Literature class. We collaborated for this with the Voskuyl Library staff and Professor Anna Jordan’s Creative Writing class.
April	Campus visit from Cleveland School	In conjunction with a Westmont campus visit arranged by Alyssa Hernandez (Credential Class of 2024), a student teacher in Grade 5, Andrew prepared a campus tour and scavenger hunt for the Cleveland fifth- and sixth graders.
April	Celebration of Teaching	In particular, we celebrated THREE candidates earning credentials in MUSIC—more than doubling the total number of credentials in that area Westmont has recommended EVER.
June	Professional Development on Dyslexia	Carolyn and Andrew both “attended” a two-day virtual Literacy Symposium focused on a range of topics related to serving students with different forms of dyslexia.
July	Work on local history	Andrew completed a 50 pp. volume celebrating his New York State hometown, <i>Houghton, Unapologetically</i> , for self-publication. During July, he also continued his local history work relevant to his Canadian roots, leading tours, children’s activities, and other museum outreach projects.
August	Jobs	As of this month, 10 of the 11 credential candidates from last year had received job offers, while the tenth was to be subbing, initially, while completing her credential.
Summer—and much of the preceding Academic Year	Accreditation work for the CTC	Carolyn spearheaded, with considerably smaller contributions from Andrew and Heather—the preparation and submission of accreditation-related materials to the CTC, including the regularly-scheduled response to Common Standards and Program Standards. On top of that, all California IHEs were required to submit this year a major, major response relevant to how we were addressing the state’s new Literacy Standards.

The full-time faculty and staff of Westmont's Education Department is part of a larger team.

We want to acknowledge up front the contributions of our partner (part-time) professors for 2023-24:

- Karla Curry (SBUSD) **ED 130: Special Education**
- Cailee Kilroy Villasenor (SBUSD) **ED 160/161: Computers in the Classroom**
- Melissa Ewart (SBUSD) **ED 171: Secondary Literacy**
- Veronica Gines (SBUSD) **KNS 155: Fundamentals of Movement and KNS 156: Health Education**
- Rachel Gonzales-Harris (SBUSD) **ED 100/101 Explorations in Teaching**
- Mary Gish (formerly of SBUSD) **Student Teaching Supervision**

**Westmont Education continues to expand its social media presence through its Instagram account. Follow us @westmont\_education to learn more about our Department events!**