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Education dean heads national teachers group

BY ERIN NIEMEYER
NEWS EDITOR

Dale Andersen, dean of UNLV's College of Education, will be installed as president of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education during the organization's national convention in Chicago Saturday.



Andersen will preside for three years over the AACTE, an organization composed of approximately 750 colleges, universi-

ties, schools and departments of education nationwide. He was elected to the position by 5,200 of his colleagues.

With faculty membership totaling 53,000, AACTE is the largest teacher association in the world, Andersen said.

"I honestly believe I would never have been elected if not for the fact that UNLV is attaining increasing academic prominence nationally," Andersen said. "This is a reflection of the very positive national reputation enjoyed by the university's faculty."

Dean of Education at UNLV since 1984, Andersen undertakes a three-year commitment. His responsibilities include organizing and presiding over the 1998 convention in New Orleans.

"This is the most prestigious elected position in the field of education," Andersen said.

A national voluntary association of colleges and univer-

sities with undergraduate or graduate programs to prepare professional educators, AACTE has member institutions in Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, and Australia. As president, Andersen assumes a primary role in teacher education in the United States.

AACTE supports programs in data gathering, equity, leadership development, networking, policy analysis, professional issues, and scholarship. Its advocacy efforts shape policy at the local, institutional, state, and national levels.

"We are delighted that Dr. Andersen has been elected to this important position by his colleagues from across the country," said David Amig, AACTE chief executive officer. "We look forward to working with him."

Before becoming dean of UNLV's College of Education 12 years ago, Andersen was an 18-year faculty member at

Washington State University where he served for 10 years as chair of the Department of Education. Earlier, Andersen worked as a high school teacher, coach and counselor in Great Falls, Montana and as a faculty member at the University of Montana.

Andersen has held a variety of leadership positions in the field of education, including his service on the AACTE Board of Directors prior to his election to the presidency.

Andersen also served as secretary and president of the Land Grant Dean of Education Association, an organization composed of the deans of education of approximately 120 of the largest state universities and land grant colleges in the country.

He was the first president of the Nevada Commission on Professional Standards in Education and currently serves on that commission.

Andersen is optimistic about his future with the AACTE. In a letter to his colleagues prior to his election to the presidency of the AACTE, Andersen noted his two primary concerns: professionalization of teaching and teacher education, and "children of poverty."

Andersen cites an article published in the October, 1995 issue of *Phi Delta Kappan* in which Harold Hodgkinson discusses poverty as the most urgent issue facing this nation and the best predictor of school failure. "It deserves our attention," Andersen said.

"Now is a time for unity of purpose," Andersen said. "As your president, I will work to insure that worthwhile benefits accrue to all of our diverse member institutions."

UNLV professor's statement concerns gaming tycoon

A UNLV professor speaks out concerning a national gaming tax

BY CATINA HAVERLOCK
STAFF NEWS WRITER

Mirage Chairman Steve Wynn voiced his concerns to a UNLV professor who was recently quoted in a national newspaper concerning a proposed four percent gaming tax.

Dr. William Thompson told the *Washington Post* that Nevada casinos could afford a four percent national gaming tax. Soon after the article appeared, he received a phone call from Wynn.

According to Thompson, Wynn said, "Mr. Thompson you've just thrown a hand grenade into a theater."

Thompson explained the quote was just a portion of his conversation with the *Washington Post* reporter, and that he is strongly opposed to the proposed tax.

"Steve Forbes could afford a 90 percent personal income tax, but that doesn't mean I'm in favor of it," Thompson said. "Nevada casinos could afford



William Thompson, Ph.D

a gaming tax but I'm against it."

Thompson listed several reasons why he's against a national gaming tax.

First, it wouldn't produce a significant amount of money for the federal government, Thompson said.

"The tax would generate about \$800 million a year," Thompson said. "But with a federal debt of \$5,000 billion, that's not enough to even make a dent."

Second, if the gaming tax was aimed at casinos, Nevada would pay between 35 and 45

percent.

"It's what you call inequitable," Thompson said. "A 45 percent tax translates into 30 thousand lost jobs."

Third, he dismisses the notion of a "sin" tax on Nevada alone.

"If it's sin, it doesn't talk to the sin of all gambling, such as the California lottery," Thompson said.

Thompson said that Nevada's casino gambling is better than riverboat and reservation gambling found in other states.

"They target the locals," Thompson said. "They (the locals) don't get anything in return."

"They shouldn't pick on Las Vegas, because we do it the right way. We target tourists and they get something in return—an inexpensive vacation."

Thompson said a national gaming tax would make it harder for Las Vegas to serve its tourists.

"We should keep casino taxes as low as possible because the casinos drive our economy," said Thompson, who added that low taxes are the main reason the casinos offer such affordable hotel rates.

"We've got the lowest casino tax in the world and we should keep it that way," Thompson said.



Carol Harter

Harter teams with NCAA

BY APRIL PARTRIDGE
STAFF NEWS WRITER

UNLV President Carol Harter was recently elected to the President's Commission of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the governing organization for college athletics.

Harter was elected in January at an NCAA convention in Dallas. Her term expires January 2000.

Members of the board, composed of 44 university presidents, are nominated and elected by fellow university presidents. Harter is among 22 university presidents on the board representing a Division I school. Division I schools compete at the highest level of collegiate athletics.

The president's commission maintains institution-

al control of college athletics, the well-being of the student athlete, academic standards, ethical conduct of both students and institutions and the financial balance between an institution's athletic and other programs.

"I'm extremely honored that the other Division I institutions chose me to represent them and the interests of our universities on the president's commission," Harter said.

"I pledge to work diligently to help develop rules and standards that promote top-notch competition while at the same time maintaining high academic standards."

The President's Commission has the right to review any NCAA activity, to commission studies of intercollegiate athletic issues, to propose NCAA legislation and to amend the agenda for any meeting of the NCAA Council or any NCAA Convention.

Harter previously served as a Division III representative as the president of the State University of New York at Geneseo. She resigned from the commission when she accepted the presidency at UNLV.

UNLV Athletic Director Charles Cavagnaro said of Harter's appointment, "It shows that UNLV is a major voice in college athletics," Cavagnaro said.