



Fresno State prepares to offer first independent doctorate

Plans are in the final stage for the university's first independent doctorate in educational leadership. Legislation last year freed Fresno State and the 22 other California State University campuses from the previous mandate to partner with a University of California program to issue a doctorate. The doctoral program will begin on campus in fall 2007 and increase the number of students admitted to the program annually.

The CSU director of the Joint Doctoral Program, Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty, said, "Offering the doctorate by our faculty is very exciting. Over the past 15 years we have developed the expertise on this campus to offer the doctorate independent of the UC. This new doctorate will open the door for many of our own faculty to offer courses and to become involved in the exciting research undertaken by doctoral students."



Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty

In addition, an emphasis on community college, higher-education leadership will be added to address the needs of postsecondary education. The addition of doctoral programs will attract prominent faculty members who will enhance the amount and quality of research conducted on campus, improve the university's eligibility to obtain external grants and contracts, and increase the stature of the university through partnerships with other leading research institutions.