

# Announcing the CCTE Fall 2025 Conference

October 16-17 at the University of San Diego and Virtually

**Theme—Why We Matter:  
Teaching and Teacher Educator Professionalism,  
Expertise, Advocacy, and Innovation**

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*CCTE Board of Directors & CCTE Fall 2025 Conference Chair*

In recent years, assaults on teaching and teacher education have continued to rise nationwide. These attacks have taken place locally, as school boards have worked to pass policies aimed at controlling how and what teachers teach. And these attacks have occurred at the state and, particularly in 2025, national levels, as legislative bodies have passed policies, often influenced by organizations operating outside the sphere of education, that impact both what teachers teach and how they are prepared. Most recently, in California, we saw these attempts play out through the proposed AB 1454, which sought to influence how literacy is taught in elementary classrooms. At the federal level, we've witnessed similar efforts, as recent policies have targeted Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, seeking to undermine frameworks that promote a racially diverse teaching force and inclusive and culturally sustaining educational practices. Only rarely—if at all—have teachers and teacher educators been brought into the conversations around these policy issues.

In the Summer of 2024, the California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE) Board of Directors approved “Who We Are, Why We Matter: Teaching and Teacher Educator Professionalism, Expertise, Advocacy, and Innovation” as the theme for the Fall 2025 Conference. That theme feels even more relevant and necessary now.

We are excited to announce the speakers for our general sessions. Dr. Kevin Kumashiro, an internationally recognized expert on educational policy, school reform, teacher preparation, and educational equity and social justice, with a wide-ranging list of accomplishments and awards as a scholar, educator, leader, and advocate, will help us kick-off the conference at our Thursday Opening Session. On Friday, we will have the privilege of, first, hearing from Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, President and CEO of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and former dean and distinguished professor of the School of Education at American University in Washington, D.C. After Dr. Holcomb-McCoy speaks, CCTE Past President Dr. Betina Hsieh, now the Boeing Professor of Teacher Education at the University of Washington, will lead a working session to guide us in thinking through and planning our own advocacy efforts.

The Fall 2025 Conference will also bring some changes to our annual fall conference. This year, the conference will take place October 16-17 at the University of San Diego, hosted by the School of Leadership and Education Sciences. This change in venue allows us to make some promising shifts in the schedule. These include beginning the Opening Session at 10:30 a.m. Thursday and shifting the poster session to lunchtime on Friday. In lieu of a Saturday session, we will instead hold a follow-up virtual session later in the fall on Saturday, November 8, that will include research presentations and a synthesis conversation building on the on-site conference.

The bulk of the on-site conference will stay the same as in the past, with time to be inspired and invigorated by both the keynote addresses in the large group sessions and the work of our colleagues in the various research presentations, which will again include concurrent presentations, roundtable presentations, panels and workshops, and the poster session. The Fall 2025 Conference will also include the usual associated group meetings, special interest group meetings, an awards presentation on Friday afternoon, and receptions each day. The California University Field Coordinators Forum, the CCTE Board of Directors meeting, and the statewide meeting of education deans will each meet on Wednesday, October 16, the day prior to the Fall Conference, also hosted by the School of Leadership and Education Sciences at the University of San Diego.

See the tentative conference schedule, registration information, and the call for research session proposals on the following pages. We look forward to you joining us in San Diego in October.