



National Council for Private School Accreditation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOMAS READ JOINS NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION; NCPA HOLDS FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING, STARTS REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Thomas Read, President Emeritus of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States, has agreed to become the National Council for Private School Accreditation's fourth at-large member, NCPA Executive Director Charles J. O'Malley announced today on the eve of the Council's first meeting.

Read brings valuable knowledge, experience and contacts to NCPA in its efforts to strengthen accrediting procedures among the nations' private elementary and secondary accrediting associations, O'Malley said.

"Tom will provide the council with even stronger ties to the independent school community," O'Malley continued.

Read joins former U.S. Secretary of Education Terrel Bell, Connecticut Department of Education School Approval Consultant Marie Della Bella and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools' Elementary School Commissioner John Stoops on the NCPA roster of at-large members. At-large members are accreditation experts not affiliated with any of NCPA's member organizations.

O'Malley also announced the addition of four new public members to NCPA's National Advisory on Private School Accreditation. National Association of State Boards of Education Executive Director Brenda Lilienthal Welburn, Education Commission of the States Clearinghouse Director Kathy Christie, American Legislative Exchange Council Vice-President for Planning and Research Robert Meyers and Council for American Private Education Executive Director Joyce McCray have all agreed to join NCPA's advisory arm.

"The involvement of these organizations (ALEC, CAPE, NASBE and ECS) serves as recognition that the Council is providing a needed service," O'Malley stated.

These announcements come as NCPA prepares to meet in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday and Thursday. The Council will elect members to its enforcement arm, The Commission on Standards and Review, and appoint additional members to the National Advisory. In addition, Council members will vote on the final draft of accrediting procedures for programs administered by private school associations.

The Orlando meeting also marks the official beginning of the NCPA's accreditation review process. The Commission on Standards and Review will start examining the accrediting programs of several Council member organizations including: General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the International Christian Accrediting Association. The Commission will report its findings and recommendations for full approval, probationary status or rejection to the full Council at NCPA's fall meeting. During the intervening months, Commission members will thoroughly evaluate each program's standards and conduct on-site reviews of their procedures.