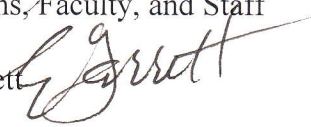




## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff

**From:** Elizabeth Garrett 

**Date:** August 5, 2010

**Subject:** The USC Center for Enrollment Research, Policy and Practice (CERPP)

Office of the Provost

Over the past four years, the USC Center for Enrollment Research, Policy and Practice (CERPP) has become a vital part of the university's academic life. Under the direction of Jerome Lucido, the center addresses critical issues surrounding enrollment policy and access to higher education, while advancing USC's larger commitment to bringing innovative research into practice. The center and its work now receive national acclaim.

With its solid foundation, and in order to maximize its position at USC, the center is now moving to the Rossier School of Education. Dr. Lucido will continue to serve as its executive director, and he will join the Rossier School as a research professor. This move will facilitate new collaborations with the Rossier School's faculty and programs, including the Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, under the direction of Professor William Tierney. Dr. Lucido will also serve as a special advisor to the provost on enrollment policy, in particular on domestic and international developments in this area.

In its new home, CERPP will build on its already-strong record of success. The center has launched a new research-based tool that allows high schools to evaluate and improve their college-going culture. Known as the College Access and Success Assessment (CASA), it has been piloted with over 3,000 students in the Long Beach and Fresno Unified School Districts. The center also partnered with Indiana University to complete a study, *Organizing for Student Persistence*, which examines how four-year colleges and universities are organizing to promote student success and completion. The findings have been presented nationally at professional associations, and publications are forthcoming.

Recently, the College Board supported phase two of the persistence study by awarding CERPP a \$200,000 grant to launch the Study of Community College Efforts toward Student Success (SCESS), again in partnership with Indiana University. Further, CERPP completed a noteworthy study, *Who We Are: An In-Depth Look at Enrollment Professionals, the Movement to Centralize Systems, and*

*External Influences on Practice.* In addition, CERPP has developed extensive online resources for enrollment policy makers and professionals, including a clearinghouse for enrollment research, podcasts, and steady research and news updates.

In 2011, the center will host another major admission policy conference. It will also implement the College Access and Success Assessment in up to 100 urban, high-need high schools, initiate a professional development program in enrollment policy and social issues, and seek to increase the number and depth of its strategic partnerships. These endeavors will be facilitated by the center's location in the Rossier School of Education, and we all look forward to Dr. Lucido's continued contributions in his new role at USC.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias  
Robert Abeles  
Todd R. Dickey  
Martha Harris