

**Dr. Elizabeth Quintero, Professor**

Co-chair, School of Education

Coordinator of Early Childhood Studies

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Dear Emerging Leaders Review Panel:

Dr. Carola Mater is a leader in the field of Early Care and Education with a strong emphasis in and passion for working with children who are dual language learners and their families. Her knowledge base that represents years of sensitive and active learning is vast and is growing every day with every experience she has in the profession. She is one of the strongest advocates for children and families that I have ever met.

Carola Matera’s strengths are evident in a variety of roles through her work in California and nationally. Regarding Dr. Matera’s university teaching, she is intent upon discovering the strengths, passions and interests of our students and her teaching focuses on our students, as well as the children and families in our local community. She is committed to ensuring that our teacher education students are equipped to serve the youngest and most diverse populations with pride and skill. She is adamant about teacher education students’ responding to children’s strengths, interests and prior experiences. Our university students in the Early Childhood Studies program learn about current national issues, latest research findings, and changes in policy and practice. Furthermore,Dr. Matera has incorporated new modalities for learning such as blended learning and high impact learning practices. Consequently, Dr. Matera’s teaching enriches the educational workforce in California and nationally through other professional development work.

Evaluations of Dr. Matera’s teaching are strong.Below is comment from a peer observation in ECS 468 course:

*There is no question about the depth of knowledge that Dr. Matera shares with and expects our students to learn. She is consistently sharing connections among topics students are studying and grappling with in student teaching with her own research working with children and families all over the country.*

Carola Matera’s participation in research and scholarly activities reflects collaboration with key institutions that focus on the nation’s top priorities in early childhood. During the academic year she published several peer-reviewed articles, one of which was an historic collaboration with other experts in dual-language research in Early Childhood. This research critiques a standardized assessment tool that is marketed all over the country and has been adopted by National Head Start Programs and State funded preschool programs in California and across the country.

Other scholarly work includes a preschool research study in collaboration with Dr. Zepeda, California State University Los Angeles and in partnership with the Los Angeles Office of Child Care and the National Institute for Early Education Research.

In terms of service to the university and the larger community Dr. Matera strives to provide service and leadership, always building upon existing personal work and work with students and colleagues. She recognizes that all of these efforts also provide access for our teacher education students to learn to be researchers, advocates and engages professionals in the early care and education field.

In Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, Dr. Matera contributes actively. She is Co-chair of Ventura Local Planning Council, Ventura County Office of Education , Early Childhood Division, a First 5 Santa Barbara Commissioner, a member of the Santa Barbara County Local Planning Council. At the state level Dr. Matera is chair of Californians Together University Seal of Biliteracy Committee and a member of the Early Edge Transitional Kindergarten Advisory and Planning Committee.

Finally, Carola Matera is a sincerely kind, caring, and collaborative human being. She is wonderful to work with and definitely walks the walk of tirelessly following through on every project she commits herself to. Recognizing Carola Matera as an *Exchange* Emergent Leader would be a great honor and make visible one of the national leaders dedicated to support of the increasing number of children who are dual language learners.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on 805 636 0561 if there is further information I may provide.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth P. Quintero, Professor

Early Childhood Studies, Coordinator

School of Education, Co-chair

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