

## From PDI's Vice President

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Hello!

My name is Caryn Chavez. I am the VP of the Professional Development Institute (PDI) and I work closely with the many districts and teachers we serve across the country.

All PDI courses are approved by the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Division of Extended Studies for graduate-level credit. Our course topics include technology in the classroom, social-emotional learning, working with struggling readers and writers, and more. For over 25 years, we've trained more than 275,000 teachers and have developed a reputation for providing high-quality courses taught by experienced instructors.

Teachers choose PDI courses because they are challenging, yet practical. Every course provides strategies that can be immediately implemented in the classroom. Course content guides teachers to effectively apply the theories and strategies in the classroom through examples, assignments, and guidance from the course instructor. Teachers are actively engaged throughout the course and have multiple opportunities to interact with the instructor and other course participants. Each PDI course is equivalent to 50 instructional hours of training.

In addition to being approved by UCSD, a number of our courses are also approved and offered directly through four reputable universities as part of their continuing education programs. PDI courses are approved by state Departments of Education in Nevada, Massachusetts, and Texas. PDI is also an approved CTLE provider for the New York State Education Department and a renewal unit provider for the Montana Office of Public Instruction. PDI is also promoted by many school districts to teachers needing professional development training. PDI is proud to be a woman-owned business whose founder/President, Connie Ryan, was a classroom teacher for years.

If you would like additional information, I invite you to call me at 949.263.4931. I'm happy to share more information, answer questions, and provide course syllabi to give you confidence in PDI and our courses. Thank you in advance for your trust in PDI.

Sincerely,

*Caryn*  
Caryn Chavez

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Is UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies an accredited university?**

**Yes.** UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) through the San Diego campus as part of the University of California system.

### **Is the university credit from UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies at the graduate level?**

**Yes.** All PDI courses are numbered using a 400-level numbering series to identify courses used by teachers for salary advancement and other professional purposes. Courses offered as part of the 400-series are post-baccalaureate, professional-level, credit-bearing courses, delivered at the graduate level in the field of education, and specifically designed for teachers.

### **How many units of credit does UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies offer for PDI courses?**

UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies is on the quarter system. **A PDI course is worth 5.0 quarter units, which is equivalent to 3.33 semester units or 50 instructional hours.**

### **Do participants interact with an instructor?**

Though PDI courses are offered entirely online, to enhance and reinforce the use of technology on a practical level while gaining skills and confidence in doing so, **teachers communicate with other participants and their instructor as if they were in a face-to-face course.** The interaction, collaboration, and communication in every PDI course gives participants a feeling of being in a traditional college classroom setting.

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### **What is the difference between units and credits?**

The word unit is a descriptor of the type of credit UC San Diego issues to students who have fulfilled all of the requirements of any particular class.

**The terms “unit” and “credit” can be used interchangeably** without altering the accepted institutional meaning of the terms.

### **How does PDI assess participants’ knowledge of the material they are learning?**

**Participants are assessed throughout their course using various tools such as practical lessons, projects, assignments, and quizzes.** Each course has a cumulative final assignment where participants apply what they have learned throughout the course to demonstrate a full understanding of concepts and applicability in the classroom. Participants must also complete five quizzes. Grades are based on the rubrics established for each assignment, combined with test scores.

### **I have another question. Where can I find the answer?**

**Visit [www.webteaching.com](http://www.webteaching.com) or contact Caryn Chavez at [caryn@webteaching.com](mailto:caryn@webteaching.com)** for questions or to request information about special pricing for your school district.