



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Announces the Selection of
Dr. Margaret Alvarez to Lead International Accreditation**

*Dr. Alvarez brings a strong background in curriculum and school improvement, and will
join the WASC team in Summer 2021*



Burlingame, Calif., September 15, 2020 — The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Margaret Alvarez as the new Director of International Accreditation Services. Dr. Alvarez, currently based in Singapore, will join WASC in the summer of 2021 on completion of her current tenure as Head of School of ISS International School, Singapore. She will replace David Ottaviano who has served as Director of International Accreditation Services since 2017 and will retire at the end of the school year.

Dr. Alvarez has extensive experience in accreditation, having worked in the field for nine years. During this time she engaged in research in school improvement processes, worked with government agencies, contributed to the development of accreditation protocols, trained educators and administrators in successful accreditation practices, managed processes, and supported numerous schools around the world.

“We are thrilled to have someone with Margaret’s extensive experience and body of work in international education to join the WASC team,” said ACS WASC president Dr. Barry Groves. “School improvement is at the heart of what we do, and Dr. Alvarez is a true educational leader who embodies a continuous improvement mindset.”

Dr. Alvarez began her career teaching world languages in her native Scotland before her first experience in international education in Belgium. Since then she has served as a department chair, high school principal, and head of school, and developed a deep understanding of governance practices, strategic planning, and curriculum leadership. In addition, she has served as President of the East Asia Region Council of Schools (EARCOS) and on the former International Baccalaureate (IB) Asia Pacific Regional Council. She is currently an IB trainer. While working in schools she has also remained connected with her professional passion — accreditation — by serving on numerous accreditation visits.

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Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges

“I am excited about re-entering the world of accreditation and was drawn to WASC’s high standards and strong sense of values; in particular the organization’s focus on service,” Dr. Alvarez said. “WASC has a history and commitment to serving, supporting, and improving student learning, ensuring that school improvement processes focus on the most important factor, the student. This steadfast focus has served WASC well over the years and is one that I intend to continue to cultivate.”

Dr. Alvarez has a MA in French and German from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, an M. Ed from the University of Sheffield, England, a graduate diploma in Business Administration from Singapore Institute of Management and an Ed.D from the University of Durham, England.

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) is a world-renowned accrediting association and one of the six regional accrediting agencies in the United States. ACS WASC extends its services worldwide to approximately 5,000 public, private, independent, church-related, and proprietary pre-K–12 schools, especially to schools in California, Hawaii, Asia, and the Pacific Islands.

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