

For Immediate Release

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Chapman University Joins edPal Partnership To Offer
The Top Online BTSA SB 2042 Course Series

CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA—Feb 28, 2006—With growing interest from school districts throughout California in adopting online courses as part of its professional development program, Chapman University enters into a partnership with edPal to offer the highly successful Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) SB 2042 Induction Program Standards 16-20 Online Course Series on a joint Chapman/edPal online education center, www.edpal.com/chapman.

The courses developed by the nationally recognized New Teacher Center (NTC) at the University of California, Santa Cruz and edPal are being adopted by school districts in California. Since introduction in early 2005, 13 school districts have incorporated them into their BTSA program and over 800 teachers have already benefited from the courses.

Designed to meet BTSA Induction Program Standards 16-20, the online course series covers technology for lesson planning, equity and diversity, creating supportive and healthy environments for learning, teaching special populations, and the research, standards and practices for learner success in English language.

The online courses have proven to be high quality, convenient and cost effective for school districts to offer to their beginning teachers to help them meet new California credentialing requirements. With the convenience to participate in the online class at anytime and anywhere, the course series has been popular with teachers and has experienced less than 1% dropout rate to date.

The Chapman/edPal Online Education Center courses offer a number of benefits to teachers, including:

- Dedicated instructor support and feedback
- Course content focused on classroom application
- Assignments, quizzes, cumulative final projects
- Threaded discussion
- Portfolio evidence

- Elimination of geographical barriers
- Greater interaction and collaboration
- Greater student/instructor contact
- Easy to use interface requiring minimal technology skills
- Conveniently scheduled throughout the year

The concept for the Chapman/edPal Online Education Center comes from edPal, a social benefit organization that works with K-12 school districts to build centers that leverage the intellectual and social assets of its teachers, administrators and educational affiliates. The organization develops, hosts, supports and administers the online education centers. In addition to providing the technology platform, edPal coaches course authors from districts to develop programs for online use, trains and manage online course instructors, and develops, produces and maintains courses online. For more information on edPal or to see a demonstration visit <http://www.edpal.com>.

Individual course prices range between \$160 and \$225. Group discounts are available for K-12 school districts and the BTSA consortia. For information on the Chapman/edPal Online Education Center visit: <http://www.edpal.com/chapman>
