

Education professor elected to national board

Douglas Carnine has focused mainly on developing curricula that meets the needs of K-12 students

BY CANELA WOOD
NEWS REPORTER

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence — a national board that creates tests for aspiring teachers — has recently added 13 new members to its board of directors, and one of them is University education Professor Douglas Carnine.

Carnine has spent a vast majority of his 30-plus years with the University, either directing or co-directing a number of federally funded grants to the College of Education. He has also brought in millions of dollars of federal money to one of the best colleges of education in the country.

In addition to working on more than 20 federally funded grants, Carnine has written more than 60 research articles, 40 essays, 20 book chapters and seven books. He has also presented at more than 100 conferences around the globe.

As a member of the board, he will attend two meetings annually and will be called to attend conferences as needed.

"Dr. Carnine is one of the most distinguished research faculty in the College of Education," College of Education Dean Martin Kaufman said. "His career has focused on research-based practices in the profession. He has championed curriculum designs for preparing to teach K-12 students."

Kaufman added that Carnine has been one of the national leaders in evidence-based practices, meaning he utilizes the scientific method for determining what works for students.

Carnine taught in the college and worked as an adviser to the national board before he was appointed to its board of directors.

"I'm just working part time, not teaching. I'm just doing grant and project work," Carnine said. "I haven't taught for a number of years. My project work is paid for by federal grants."

Carnine said he was invited to join the group's board of directors six months ago while he was working as a board adviser. As an adviser, he looked at specific project content or tests in which he'd work to set minimum passing scores, he said.

As a member of the board, he spends time working on finances, planning for the future and working on state relationships. Carnine said he has to look at a broader range of issues now that he's on the board.

"I think their work is important, so I'm pleased to be able to serve in that capacity," he said.

The board works to ensure there is a highly qualified teacher in every classroom, and it does this by creating tests that individual states use to assess a person's ability to work as a teacher. Each state then formulates its own standards for what scores are required to earn a teaching credential, Carnine said.

Kaufman said that the board is part of a conglomerate of leaders from throughout the country who are working in education.

"Doug is a respected member and consultant of the organizations behind (the board)," Kaufman said, adding

that Carnine has had a long relationship with many of those groups.

"The board is important because there's a shortage of qualified teachers," Carnine said. "Many people who have a degree in science or math are working and may not have time or money to go back to school. This test allows someone to move into teaching."

Carnine said the test was designed to be rigorous and, in some cases, even harder than college classes.

"To pass they'd have to know more than if they went through some of the teaching programs offered across the country," he said.

Carnine developed an interest in education when he attended the University of Illinois, where he met his wife of 34 years, Linda. The couple decided to move to Oregon when a project that Carnine had been working on had its funding and staff moved to the University.

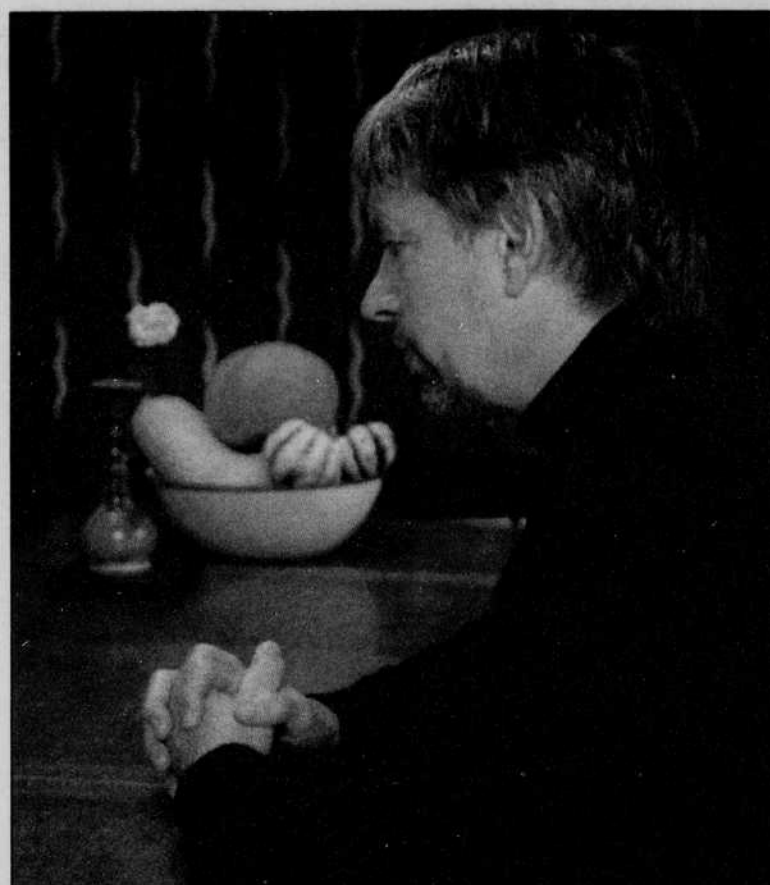
Carnine said he liked the move to Oregon because the University has a very good education school and he and his wife like the area.

"The College of Education has the highest grant revenue per faculty than any other college in the United States," Carnine said.

Carnine's contributions to the College of Education, in the form of grant money, total between \$25 and 30 million, he said, adding that the total encompasses everyone else who has been involved with the projects.

"It's exciting that he's involved with getting people certified and involved with public education," Linda Carnine said.

Linda Carnine has been highly involved with education as well. She



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

University professor Douglas Carnine sits in his home Friday afternoon after recently becoming a member of the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence.

worked in the Springfield School District as an elementary school principal and as director of special programs for the district.

"We certainly have common interests and an understanding of when the other's work gives certain restraints," she said. "I think our

interest in trying to improve kids who grow up in poverty goes back to when we first met 35 years ago. I really believe in the concept of No Child Left Behind. It's a real ticket to life for everyone."

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Measure 35: Opponents say measure is overly simple

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patients' bill of rights.

Malone's son was the victim of a medical mistake. The doctor prescribed an experimental drug to Ian Malone's mother, forcing her into contractions so intense that it smothered Ian Malone, Malone said. The baby survived, but suffered complications for more than four years, until his death in May, Malone said.

Now, Dylan Malone has jumped on board the No on 35 campaign, urging people to protect victims' rights by rejecting the measure. He wants to honor his son by improving the health care industry, he said.

Malone said that Measure 35 would only erode victims' access to justice and would do nothing to make health care safer. He said the solution lies in disciplining the four or five percent of doctors doing 55 percent of the damage.

Also, Malone said the insurance industry needs to be overhauled, adding that the industry's "Enron-esque accounting practices aren't getting the kind of scrutiny they ought to be."

"Instead, they're just trying to punish the victims with this amendment," he said. "The insurance industry knows that this won't lower their malpractice rates."

Former Oregon governor Barbara Roberts, an opponent of Measure 35, agreed that the state needs to reform the insurance industry. The few doctors that are drawing large lawsuits also need to be weeded out, she said.

"(Measure 35 is) an answer, but not to the problem," Roberts said.

Roberts said an answer to the problem is legislation that was passed during the last session that allows the state to use state funds to subsidize doctors in doctor-deprived areas of Oregon for up to 80 percent of their premium costs. Doctors are

now starting to take advantage of that program, she said.

Tom Saddoris — who practices internal medicine, is a member of the Oregon Medical Association and is one of the leaders in the No on 35 campaign — said he wanted to join the campaign to protect the legal rights of his patients. Criticizing Measure 35's "drastic, knee-jerk, one-size-fits-all, arbitrary \$500,000 limit," Saddoris said measure proponents have put a value on the quality of everybody's life.

Saddoris criticized proponents' claim that the measure will end frivolous lawsuits, saying that 95 percent of malpractice cases never even make it to trial and lawyers don't take cases without merit. The five percent of cases that end up in trial involve victims or families of victims who have been "egregiously harmed," he said.

Saddoris said there is no doctor crisis and that at least one study has shown that the number of physicians in Oregon increased 12 percent between 2000 and 2004.

"I think we can debunk easily that there's a health care crisis," he said. "Doctors are not leaving Oregon."

Malone said measure proponents have ignored victims and have supported an overly simple solution to the problem of high insurance premiums.

"I'm very angry that they hijacked the discussion for their agenda, rather than talking about the needs of an injured patient," Malone said.

Malone said the measure limits a victim's constitutional rights. Juries should be able to determine monetary awards based on individual circumstances, he said.

"Be very careful to sign away your rights to the court system because you may need them someday," Malone said.

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