



**National Center for Research
on Evaluation, Standards, & Student Testing**

UCLA | Graduate School of Education & Information Studies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRESST/UCLA AWARDED NEW HEWLETT FOUNDATION GRANT

Los Angeles, CA – UCLA’s National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) has been selected for a \$250,000 planning grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to evaluate the link between deeper student learning and two new assessments currently under development. Two consortia, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), and the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, are creating next-generation state assessment systems to measure the Common Core State Standards, adopted by 45 states and the District of Columbia.

The planning grant will allow CRESST researchers to investigate the relationship between the new Consortia assessments and the improvement of students’ ability to master core academic content, think critically, solve complex problems, work and communicate collaboratively, and know how to monitor and direct their own learning.

CRESST will also convene expert panels to advise on the design and validation of the new technology-based assessments, which are expected to be computer administered and scored.

“We believe that this important Hewlett Foundation grant will help CRESST apply our expertise in assessment design, advanced technology, and validation of assessment systems, to the forthcoming consortia assessments that use innovative measurement and reporting methods,” said CRESST Director Joan Herman who will lead the CRESST efforts. She pointed to successful CRESST research and development in the field of gaming simulations as invaluable experience that will contribute to the new research endeavor.

For more information, contact Joan Herman at (310) 206-3701 or email herman@cse.ucla.edu.

About CRESST

The National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) conducts research into accountability systems, practices, and policies. The Center also evaluates a broad number of educational programs and methods, with a central goal of improved achievement for all students and reductions in achievement gaps.

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