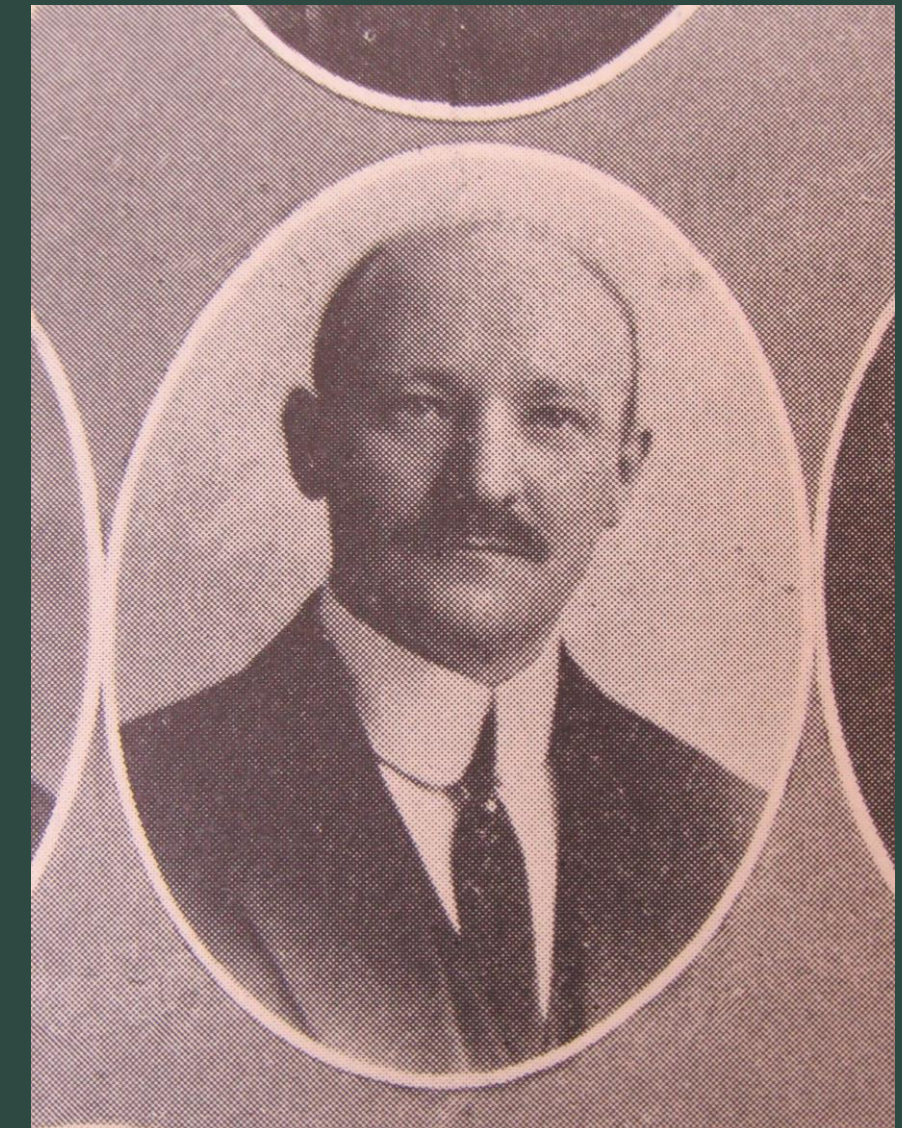


The beginning of the School of Education

By Prof. Pauline J. Reynolds and Karalee Vaughn

The University of Redlands (U of R) hired Dr. Iwar Westerberg in 1923. Through his visionary leadership, he developed a teacher training program to grant credentials in elementary, junior high, and secondary education. He also led the university's efforts with the California State Board of Education to credential students for teaching.

This is a highly significant piece of institutional and state educational history, as the U of R's School of Education (SOE) was the only college in San Bernardino County, and 1 of only 3 in Southern California, to grant the secondary education credential when this accreditation was announced to students by President Duke in January, 1924.



Prof. Iwar Westerberg, La Letra, 1925, p. 111.

New College Of Education Opening Marks Big U.R. Day

With the opening of the new School of Education last Wednesday, that day was marked with special significance as this new college is the first to be added to the University since the founding of the institution when the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Fine Arts were established.

The School of Education, being a senior college, registration will be limited to the upper class and graduate students. Headed by Dr. V. L. Duke as president, and Dr. I. S. Westerberg as director, the faculty of the school numbers fifteen. Students fulfilling the requirements of the school will be certified to receive the proper state teachers' certificate.

The establishment of the new institution followed the unanimous action of the State Board of Education in January when the University of Redlands was accredited for the certification of teachers to receive elementary, junior and high school certificates. The significance of this can be seen when it is understood that the University of Redlands is one of only three colleges in Southern California to grant the high school certificates.

The action of the State Board of Education in accrediting the University of Redlands will probably mean an influx of many desirable students and a strengthening of the ranks of upper classmen, according to university officials.

U of R Campus, Sept 19, 1924, front page.

Westerberg leveraged his personal and professional networks to validate and support Redlands' ambition to credential teachers, an especially important contribution as our institution was seen as the "baby college" of Southern California and perhaps unready for such an accolade, at least according to our rivals.

Westerberg's efforts for teacher training accreditation meant that the SOE was accredited before any university level accreditation, at state or national level.

After earning accreditation for teacher training for our School of Education, Westerberg then persuaded President Duke to seek accreditation for the institution, again using his networks on behalf of the U of R, and leading the efforts towards university level accreditations.

In addition to these endeavors, numerous reports credit the SOE with increasing the enrollments of the university, thereby contributing to the growth, financial health, and reputation, of the institution as a whole.

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In the Spring of 1923 I received an appointment as Professor of Education in the University of Redlands. I was informed by the President that up to that time Redlands did not have a Department of Education, nor a School of Education, nor did it have any authority to recommend candidates for teaching credentials to the State Board of Education.

My business was, therefore, not only to take up teaching of specified courses in Education, but to help in establishing as soon as possible a Department of Education and to plan it in such a way that the University would obtain an accredited standing with the State Board with the right to recommend teaching candidates for credentials.

When in early September of 1923, I arrived at Redlands I found that the task was not an easy one. The campus offered no appropriate facilities for student teaching. And what could one man do to furnish all the varied courses in Education demanded by the State Board. But I had undertaken the work and must see it through, somehow.

The idea then came to me that

Westerberg report, University of Redlands archives.