

REL Pacific Welcomes Dr. Christina Tydeman

As the new Deputy Director of REL Pacific, Dr. Christina Tydeman provides leadership and oversight to the REL Pacific team and provides technical support on translating research into practice within the region. Prior to joining REL Pacific, Christina was the Director of the Monitoring and Compliance Branch of the Hawaii Department of Education and served as Associate Dean for the School of Education and Counseling Psychology at the Dominican University of California. Christina brings expertise in multiple areas to REL Pacific, including development, administration, assessment support, and grant coordination. Christina holds a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Dominican University and received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Hawaii.

Christina has been a career educator for more than 30 years, serving as a teacher and professional development administrator, and she has worked in accountability, assessment, and data systems, all of which will inform her role at REL Pacific. Her career has focused on how educators can use their professional practice to improve their own skills—in addition to improving student outcomes. As a result, Christina is particularly interested in REL Pacific's professional learning partnership work, although she also has experience in other REL Pacific focus areas, such as college and career readiness and early literacy.

Christina looks forward to her work with REL Pacific because of the opportunity to support Partnerships as

they implement solutions to their high-priority needs. As Christina notes, "Understanding the individual and unique needs of our partners are vital. Having the opportunity to really engage in some creative problem solving on the ground to develop solutions that work for our partners is really exciting to me."

Regarding this type of needs-responsive work, Christina affirms the importance of understanding the unique context of each of the jurisdictions REL Pacific serves, noting that "there is not a one-size-fits-all solution for each of them."



In the coming months, Christina looks forward to getting to know REL Pacific's partners and local stakeholders and is already planning trips to visit stakeholders throughout the region. The importance of

engaging with the community at the ground level isn't lost on Christina, as she states, "There is no way that one can really understand the challenges that they might face until one actually experiences them. Until I do that, I will only have a partial understanding of the high-stakes issues at hand."

The REL Pacific team is very excited to have Christina serve as deputy director and wish her the warmest welcome! Christina can be reached at ctydeman@mcrel.org.