

## **Susan O'Hara Appointed Executive Director of the Center for the Support of Excellence in Teaching at Stanford**

Dr. Susan O'Hara was appointed the Executive Director of the Center for the Support of Excellence in Teaching (CSET) at Stanford effective July 1, 2009. O'Hara will lead the new teacher center and also serve as an Associate Professor (Teaching) within the School of Education. Her appointment followed an extensive national search.

CSET's goals are to create world-class professional development programs for educators and to provide sustained opportunities for teachers to develop their professional knowledge and skill; including an understanding of subject matter and how best to teach subject specific content to a wide range of students. O'Hara will be responsible for the Center's operations and the overall coordination, execution, and management of the variety of professional development programs that will be offered over the next few years.

O'Hara will work closely with CSET's Faculty Director, Professor Pam Grossman and the Center's Advisory Board to design, monitor, and evaluate exemplary professional development programs for practicing teachers. As part of this work, O'Hara will serve as a liaison to all schools and departments on the Stanford campus, and will work closely with faculty outside the School of Education who are interested in developing programs for teachers.

O'Hara comes to Stanford with an established research focus on teacher professional development of her own. Specifically, she investigates approaches to providing a challenging and meaningful science, math, and technology-enhanced curriculum to linguistically and culturally diverse populations. Her recent research has focused on the impact of hypermedia authoring on the academic vocabulary development of English language learners. She has extensive experience in developing, facilitating, and evaluating large-scale professional development initiatives that have targeted different education audiences. O'Hara has co-authored articles for numerous journals, including the *Journal for the Education of Students Placed at Risk*, the *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, and *Teacher Education Quarterly*. She also has co-authored two books for classroom teachers, *NETS Grades 6-8 Multidisciplinary Resource Units* and *Teaching Vocabulary with Hypermedia, 6-12*.

O'Hara received her BA in Mathematics and Physics from University College Dublin, her MA in Applied Mathematics from the University of Southern California, and a PhD in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education from the University of California at Davis.