Elissa Kido
Candidate for Honorary Degree
Doctor of Pedagogy

As the founding director of the Center for Research on Adventist Education K–12 and the project director for CognitiveGenesis, Elissa Kido has made an enormous contribution to the advancement of Adventist education in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. The promotion of academic excellence has served as a driving force throughout her 40-year teaching career that spans elementary to graduate education. On November 1, 2015, the American Division leaders acknowledged her contributions to Seventh-day Adventist education with the Award for Excellence. She also received the Charles Weniger Award for Excellence in January 2013.

Kido attended Pacific Union College where she received a BA in English and biology. Recently, her alma mater presented her with an Honored Alumni award. It was during her college life that she accepted Christ and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She later received an MA in English from California State University and then an EdD in English education from Boston University. Currently, she is a professor of education at La Sierra University, California, and director of CRAE, the only education research center that focuses solely on K–12 Adventist education.

Since 2001, she has actively served at La Sierra University in academic administrative positions, first as interim associate vice president for Academic Administration and then dean of the School of Education. During her deanship, she launched CognitiveGenesis, the groundbreaking research project that assessed the academic performance of students in all Adventist schools throughout the North American Division.

Prior to La Sierra University, Kido held teaching and administrative posts at several universities including St. John Fisher University in Rochester, New York, and Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. She stayed involved with Adventist education by serving on boards of trustees at Atlantic Union College and Union College as well as on local Adventist school boards.


For her contribution to advancing Adventist education and promoting the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s dedication to education, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Elissa Kido with the degree, Doctor of Pedagogy, honoris causa.