



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: VI.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: May 13, 2009

SUBJECT: Receipt of the State Review Team Report Concerning Certain University of Southern Maine Educator Preparation Programs Seeking Renewal of State Program Approval

BACKGROUND: The University of Southern Maine (USM), College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), requested a campus visitation to review, for renewal of State approval, eight initial and continuing educator preparation programs. There are eight (8) initial and continuing educator preparation programs at USM. The four initial teacher preparation programs are located in three colleges: CEHD, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and Lewiston-Auburn College (LAC). The four continuing education programs are based in the CEHD.

The Teacher Education Department in the CEHD is responsible for two initial certification delivery systems: Teachers for Elementary And Middle Schools (TEAMS) and the Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP). Together, these two systems comprise a single program, the Teacher Education Program, and include entry pathways from the CAS departments of Mathematics and Modern and Classical Languages and Literature.

The Teacher Education Program is concurrently seeking national accreditation from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). In accordance with the state agreement with TEAC, the Teacher Education Program's Inquiry Brief, and associated appendices submitted to TEAC, has served as documentation for State program approval consideration. Only two primary structures: the undergraduate-graduate (TEAMS) program and the post-baccalaureate (ETEP) have been put forward for national accreditation by TEAC.

Other initial teacher preparation programs are Art Education and Music Education, located in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and the Collaborative Learning and School Success (CLASS) Program, located in Lewiston-Auburn College. Continuing USM professional education programs that lead to state certification are Counselor Education, School Psychology, Literacy, and Educational Leadership.

The eight programs that constitute the USM educator preparation unit are:

Art Education
Counselor Education
School Psychology
Music Education

CLASS (LAC)
Educational Leadership
Literacy
Teacher Education Program

A joint State and Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) program approval/accreditation visit was conducted from March 8 - 11, 2009. The joint visitation team was co-chaired by a TEAC team member (Dr. Frank Murray, President of TEAC) and co-chaired by a Maine State team member (Dr. Kathy Yardley, Dean, College of Education, Health and Rehabilitation, University of Maine at Farmington).

Following the on-site visit a State Team Report was prepared and is available for distribution which includes Team findings, resulting from the application of State Board standards, as well as some commendations, recommendations, and a recommendation concerning State program approval status. The TEAC auditors are compiling and will submit their Audit Report to both USM and the Department. This report will verify the evidence used to support the USM's Teacher Education Program claims that the TEAMS and ETEP programs have met the State Board standards in addition to verifying other evidence that pertains to TEAC's quality principles and standards. The TEAC Audit Report will determine if USM's Inquiry Brief received a clean, qualified, adverse, or disclaimer option toward national accreditation based upon TEAC guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education receive the State Team Report concerning the application from the University of Southern Maine for renewal of State program approval for the following educator preparation programs: Art Education; CLASS; Counselor Education; Educational Leadership; Literacy; Music Education; and School Psychology.

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