

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTOR OF EDUCATION
DEGREE IN LEADERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

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I. SUMMARY

The University of Colorado Denver has submitted a proposal for a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Leadership for Educational Equity to be offered at the University of Colorado Denver's School of Education and Human Development. It is designed to prepare leaders with the knowledge and skills to support diversity and equity for all students in preschool through 12th grade and community-based education environments. In addition, this practice-based program will prepare leaders to translate research into practice, influence policy, use data effectively in decision-making and organize individuals and groups to address challenges collaboratively.¹

The program structure, with courses being offered in weekend hybrid sessions (part in-class delivery and part on-line delivery) and intensive summer formats, will allow students to work full time. Students will move through the program in a cohort of about twenty students, completing coursework in three years and using the fourth year to complete a dissertation.

The Board of Regents for the University of Colorado System approved the Doctor of Education in Leadership for Educational Equity on March 12, 2009 as a new degree program in the School of Education and Human Development.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from the University of Colorado Denver proposal for the Doctor of Education (EdD) in Leadership for Educational Equity.

The need for the proposed degree program was indicated by a program review of the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD), recent national dialogue about the function of a doctorate in education, and the changing context of the University of Colorado Denver. The program review recommended that faculty revisit the program curriculum to determine whether it was meeting the professional goals of the student population. The review also recommended that the program focus the curriculum on issues of diversity and equity and explain the program outcomes more explicitly to students.

¹ Doctor of Education in Leadership for Educational Equity proposal, executive summary.

The development of the proposed program also was influenced by the emergence of a national movement that called for the strengthening and differentiation of the educational Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from the Doctor of Education (EdD) degree. Generally, the PhD is viewed as a preparation for scholars who intend to focus their work on research and teaching within higher education institutions, whereas the EdD is viewed as advanced preparation for school and district leaders and clinical faculty, academic leaders and professional staff for the nation's schools, community based organizations and teaching-focused higher education institutions. The focus of the EdD program on equity, leadership and learning is also reflective of the broader mission of the University of Colorado Denver.

The primary applicant pool for this program will be masters-level working professionals from P-12 and community-based organizations in the Denver metropolitan area. The University of Colorado Denver intends to enroll one cohort of about 20 students per academic year until the program reaches its capacity of 80 students.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT:

The Doctor of Education in Leadership for Educational Equity program supports the role and mission of the University of Colorado Denver and the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD).

The statutory mission of the Downtown Campus of the University of Colorado is to be "an urban comprehensive and undergraduate research university with selective admission standards. The Denver Campus shall offer baccalaureate, masters, and a limited number of doctoral degree programs, emphasizing those that serve the needs of the Denver metropolitan area. The Denver campus has statewide authority to offer graduate programs in public administration and exclusive authority in architecture and planning."

EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR THE PROGRAM:

Follow-up studies of graduates from the SEHD PhD program indicate that 90% work in P-12 and community-based education organizations. The proposed degree program, an EdD program, will better serve the professional goals of the program's target student population.

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND

Over the past seven years, only 56% of applicants were admitted to the existing doctoral program, primarily due to resource limitations. Currently, there is a large database of prospective students who have expressed an interest in applying for admissions to the doctoral program, including the EdD program. Nearly 120 contacts have been made to the SEHD for doctoral programs in just the past year.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff have reviewed this proposed program to ensure that it meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. 23-1-129(6)(b). The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Doctorate in Education (EdD) in Leadership for Educational Equity to be offered by the University of Colorado Denver.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-5-129(6)(B)

VI. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

The program proposal materials are attached.