

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO OFFER CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT AT COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

PREPARED BY: DR. ROBERT MITCHELL, ACADEMIC POLICY OFFICER FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION

I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval to offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education endorsement (8.22) at Colorado Mesa University.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121 the Colorado Commission on Higher Education considers approval of all educator preparation programs at public and private institutions of higher education, after receiving an affirmative recommendation from the State Board of Education. The process for initial approval of new educator preparation programs is as follows: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the endorsement program to ensure that its content is designed and implemented in a manner that will enable a candidate to meet the requirements for licensure in Colorado (C.R.S. §22-60.5). CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to the department. Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, the department reviews the proposed program for the following statutory performance criteria: a comprehensive admission system; ongoing advising and screening of candidates; integration of theory and practice in coursework and field-based training; supervised field-based experience; and assessment of candidates' subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to apply the professional knowledge base [C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)].

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of Colorado Mesa University's (CMU) Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (8.22) endorsement program at its meeting September 10, 2014. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department.

This program supports the continued development of existing educators within the institution's Center for Teacher Education. Individual students have the option of completing coursework for the endorsement, or continuing towards a Master of Arts in Education at CMU. Coursework is aligned to provide theoretical and practical training for K-12 Colorado educators employed

within a variety of educational environments. Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121(2), department staff reviewed the proposal and confirmed it meets the statutory performance criteria. The following is summarized from the institution's proposal:

1. **Comprehensive admission system:** CMU requires all admitted students to provide evidence of academic qualifications prior to starting the program. The criteria for admission includes: the applicant possesses a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, holds a current Colorado teaching license, demonstrates evidence of strong academic background and ability to pursue advanced study, documents evidence of dedication and promise to the field of education as a professional leader, demonstrates strong English reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, has competence in the use of education technology and has a minimum overall GPA of 3.0
2. **Ongoing screening and advising:** CMU's Center for Teacher Education has 12 members of the faculty and staff identified to provide advising and support for students in the program. In addition, candidate screening is performed on an ongoing basis through academic review and individual progression through the proposed program.
3. **Course work and field-based training:** All courses within this program align pedagogical theory with practical application through the candidate's ongoing employment and work within a local educational agency/school district. Course such as "*Strategies in the Content Areas*" and "*Multicultural Narratives for K-12*" demonstrate this alignment and the linkage between instruction and effective classroom utilization.
4. **Candidate skills and content knowledge:** This program clearly aligns with the skills associated with the Cultural and Linguistically Diverse endorsement as specified by the Colorado Department of Education. As this program centers on the continual development of existing professionals in the school environment, the linkage developed in this program supports the enhancement of effective classroom instruction.
5. **Continual improvement:** The two faculty leads associated with this program (Dr. Valarie Dobbs and Dr. Black Bickham) are committed to reviewing student and program development on a regular basis and modifying program objectives and processes in order to support teacher development and student success. Regular reviews of this program will be done internally and externally through the state reauthorization process at CMU.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (8.22) educator endorsement program at Colorado Mesa University.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-121-Commission directive - approval of educator preparation programs – review

(2) The commission shall adopt policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in cooperation with the state board of education in developing the requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the requirements shall ensure that each educator preparation program complies with section 23-1-125, is designed on a performance-based model, and includes:

(a) A comprehensive admission system that includes screening of a candidate's dispositions for the field in which he or she is seeking licensure, consideration of a candidate's academic preparation for entry into his or her desired endorsement area or areas, and preadmission advising for students who are considering becoming candidates. The department shall work in collaboration with the programs to define any dispositions considered to be appropriate for educators.

(b) Ongoing advising and screening of candidates by practicing educators or faculty members;

(c) Course work and field-based training that integrates theory and practice and educates candidates in the methodologies, practices, and procedures of standards-based education, as described in parts 4 and 10 of article 7 of title 22, C.R.S., and specifically in teaching to the state academic standards adopted pursuant to section 22-7-406, C.R.S., or, beginning December 15, 2012, teaching to the state preschool through elementary and secondary education standards adopted pursuant to section 22-7-1005, C.R.S.;

(d) A requirement that, during the course of the preparation program, each teacher candidate in an initial licensure program complete a minimum of eight hundred hours, each principal and administrator candidate complete a minimum of three hundred hours, and each other advanced degree or add-on endorsement candidate complete appropriate supervised field-based experience that relates to predetermined learning standards and includes best practices and national norms related to the candidate's endorsement;

(e) A requirement that each candidate, prior to graduation, must demonstrate the skills required for licensure, as specified by rule of the state board of education pursuant to section 22-2-109 (3), C.R.S., in the manner specified by rule of the state board;

(f) Comprehensive, ongoing assessment including evaluation of each candidate's subject matter and professional knowledge and ability to demonstrate skill in applying the professional knowledge base.