

**TOPIC: RECOMMEND REAUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION UNIT AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE**

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

**I. SUMMARY**

This item recommends reauthorization of the educator preparation unit and educator preparation programs at Fort Lewis College, based on a successful reauthorization visit and review of its programs by department and CDE staff, completed November 2-4, 2014.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to C.R.S. §23-1-121 the Commission considers reauthorization 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 reauthorization of educator preparation programs is as follows: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts a review of the endorsement programs to ensure that the 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). Department of Higher Education (DHE) reviews the unit and its programs for the following statutory performance criteria: admission system; ongoing advising and screening of educator 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)]. DHE and CDE then jointly conduct an on-site visit of the unit and its educator preparation programs. CDE then makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education, which then makes a recommendation to DHE. Upon receiving an affirmative recommendation, DHE makes a recommendation to the Commission.

**III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

During the on-site reauthorization visit, November 2-4, 2014, the reauthorization team noted several strengths and provided recommendations for the educator preparation program at Fort Lewis College. Specifically, the team noted that the program at the college was very strong at providing effective field placement opportunities for students and utilizing data from student performance to modify instruction and to make programmatic improvements. Specific recommendations for the program included: formalizing various operations to ensure program continuity, examining new leadership structures in educator preparation to optimize external outreach efforts and ensure program quality and the adoption of an external advisory board to provide continual feedback on program strengths and developmental areas.

At its meeting on January 7, 2015, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of the educator preparation programs at Fort Lewis College. CDE staff transmitted State Board of Education's approval of the following endorsement programs:

- Drama (8.07)
- Early Childhood Education (8.01)
- Elementary Education (8.02)
- Foreign Language (8.10)
- Art (8.04)
- Music (8.15)
- Physical Education (8.16)
- English Language Arts (8.09)
- Mathematics (8.14)
- Science (8.17)
- Social Studies (8.18)
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (8.22)

Given that the State Board of Education has approved the content of the educator preparation programs, the reauthorization team recommends the programs be reauthorized.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends that the Commission reauthorize the educator preparation unit and educator preparation programs at Fort Lewis College.**

#### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

§23-1-121 C.R.S.: (4) (a) (I) The department, in conjunction with the department of education, shall review each educator preparation program offered by an institution of higher education as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (4) and shall establish a schedule for review of each educator preparation program that ensures each program is reviewed as provided in this section not more frequently than once every five years.