

April 13, 2006

Robert L. Carothers
President
University of Rhode Island
Green Hall
Kingston, RI 02881

Dear President Carothers:

At its March 25-30, 2006 meeting in Portland, Oregon, the Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) considered the application for continuing accreditation of the School of Education as the unit that oversees the professional education offerings at the University of Rhode Island. I am pleased to inform you of the Unit Accreditation Board's decision to continue the accreditation of the School of Education at the University of Rhode Island at the advanced preparation level. This action removes the conditions from Standards 2 and 6 at the advanced preparation level and returns the institution to its regular accreditation cycle. This accreditation decision indicates that the unit and its programs meet rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you and your professional education unit for displaying the high quality necessary to be granted national accreditation. I would also like to express appreciation for the cooperation received from the faculty, staff, and administration of your institution. The copy of this letter sent to the head of your professional education unit includes a certificate in acknowledgement of the unit's accomplishment.

Areas for improvement relative to Standard 6 at the advanced preparation level are listed on the enclosed areas for improvement report. No areas for improvement have been cited for Standard 2 at the advanced preparation level. Note that any previously cited areas for improvement relative either to Standards 2 and 6 at the initial teacher preparation level or to the other standards continue to apply.

The next NCATE visit for both preparation levels is scheduled for spring 2008, which is five years after the spring 2003 full visit. You will begin to receive materials for that visit approximately two years prior to the visit. (In partnership states, the actual date of the visit must be determined jointly by the state and NCATE.) In addition, your institution will be required to complete a Professional Education Data System instrument each year during the accreditation period. You are not required to report specifically on progress in the areas for improvement cited, but you are encouraged to do so. During the

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accreditation period, you will be expected to report evaluations and changes in relation to all six standards.

Enclosed is a copy of NCATE's Policies on Dissemination of Information, which describes the terms and dates by which your current accreditation action becomes a matter of public record and lists other parties who will be notified of accreditation action. If your state has a partnership agreement with NCATE, the state agency with program approval authority receives a copy of this letter.

To assist you in letting potential students and the public know the benefits of attending a professionally accredited institution, we have also enclosed an information packet in the copy of this letter sent to the head of the education unit. Please feel free to contact NCATE's Communications Department if you would like further assistance.

Should you have any questions regarding NCATE's action or the items reported herein, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,



Arthur E. Wise

Enclosures

cc: David Byrd, Director, School of Education
Paulajo Gaines, Director, Teacher Certification, Rhode Island Department of
Education
Board of Examiners Team

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island

March 2006

The following areas for improvement apply to the advanced preparation level.

Standard 6. Unit Governance and Resources

The unit lacks a sufficient number of full-time faculty to ensure the delivery of high quality teacher education programs.

The unit lacks a sufficient number of administrative and support staff to ensure the effective and efficient operation of programs for the preparation of educators.

NOTE: Neither NCATE staff, team members, nor other agents of NCATE are empowered to make or modify Unit Accreditation Board decisions. These remain the sole responsibility of the Unit Accreditation Board itself.

This areas for improvement document is accessible to the institution, NCATE, and state partners (if the institution is located within an NCATE partner state). It may not be shared with others without the consent of the institution.