

April 12, 2004

John H. Keiser  
President  
Southwest Missouri State University  
901 South National  
Springfield, MO 65804

Dear President Keiser:

At its March 28-April 1, 2004, meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, the Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) considered the application for continuing accreditation of the College of Education as the unit that oversees the professional education offerings at Southwest Missouri State University. I am pleased to inform you of the Unit Accreditation Board's decision to continue the accreditation of the College of Education at Southwest Missouri State University at the initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you and your professional education unit for displaying the high quality necessary to be granted national accreditation and 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.

The Unit Accreditation Board cited the following areas for improvement:

- Candidates have limited opportunities to work with diverse peers. (*Standard 4*)
- The unit does not ensure that all candidates work with diverse faculty. (*Standard 4*)
- The unit does not ensure that all secondary and educational administration candidates have field experiences or clinical practice in diverse settings. (*Standard 4*)

Strengths noted in the Board of Examiners report have not been reiterated but are certainly considered part of the institution's accreditation visit record. You may use the information provided in the Board of Examiners report at your discretion.

In accordance with Missouri's five-year accreditation cycle, the next NCATE visit is scheduled for fall 2008. You will begin to receive materials for that visit approximately two years in advance. (In partnership states, the 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

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for improvement cited, but you are encouraged to do so. During the accreditation period, you will be expected to report evaluations and changes in relation to all six standards.

To assist you in letting potential students and the public know the benefits of attending a professionally accredited school, college, or department of education, we have also enclosed (with the copy of this letter that is sent to the head of your professional education unit) a packet that includes general communications information. In addition, we encourage you to visit the "Press Packets" section of NCATE's website, where you can access a sample press release and other pertinent information. Please feel free to contact NCATE's communications department if you need further assistance.

Also 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 also 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.

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 L. Hough, Dean, College of Education  
J. Mike Lucas, Director, Teacher Education, Missouri Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education  
Board of Examiners Team