

## APPENDIX F

### **Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science in Birth through Kindergarten at Elizabeth City State University**

#### **Introduction**

Elizabeth City State University notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Birth through Kindergarten (CIP 13.1209) in March 2003.

#### **Program Description**

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Birth through Kindergarten is structured for those who plan to work as educators in a variety of settings with young children from birth to age five. The program will be housed in the School of Education and Psychology, along with other education programs. The 127 hour curriculum for the BK program is multidisciplinary and will include the required 45 hour general education core courses and courses from psychology, sociology, health education, and special education. One of the goals of the program is to help BK students develop an understanding of the appropriate curricula and methods of instruction for children from birth through kindergarten. Field experiences will be an integral part of the BK program. Students will be able to utilize Elizabeth City State University Laboratory School, Head Start, public schools, shelters, and hospitals. Individuals who currently hold North Carolina teacher licensure in the areas of elementary education or special education can pursue a BK or a Preschool License. The proposed program will offer individualized programs of study that are developed with a faculty advisor based on the student's previous academic and experiential backgrounds. The proposed program also supports the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's documented need for graduates with special knowledge and skills as a requirement to work with young children with and without special needs.

To strengthen ties with the College of the Albemarle Community College, the proposed program will develop a Two-Plus-Two-Program that will allow community college graduates who hold an Associate of Arts degree in early childhood education to transfer to ECSU with advanced standing.

#### **Program Need**

Providing quality early childhood care has become a crucial priority for the State of North Carolina. The need for the BK program has been established through surveys (1995, 2002); there is a projected enrollment of 80 students after four years. The proposed BK program is also based on national data which describe the need for quality, higher education preparation for early caregiver workers. There is a significant educational gap for those who wish to teach children at the BK developmental stage. The proposed BK program will be important to the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank area, and surrounding counties; representatives from these areas encouraged a BK program.

#### **Resources**

Elizabeth City State University has the facilities, faculty, and the experience to support a Birth through Kindergarten Program. No additional state funds are required. Program needs will be addressed through internal reallocations, contract and grant funding, and enrollment increase funds.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish the Bachelor of Science in Birth through Kindergarten at Elizabeth City State University effective August 2004.