

## APPENDIX M

### **Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Birth through Kindergarten Education at East Carolina University**

#### **Introduction**

East Carolina University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a MAEd degree in Birth through Kindergarten Education (CIP# 13.1204) in February 2004. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2004.

#### **Program Description**

The MAEd in Birth through Kindergarten (BK) Education is an interdisciplinary program within the College of Education designed to prepare individuals for advanced study in Early Childhood Education and for professional leadership roles such as master teachers, early interventionists, educational evaluators, consultants, program coordinators, supervisors, and staff development officers. The program is based on the philosophy, rationale, and competencies established for initial BK licensure. It will be open to individuals who hold an initial teaching license in BK or a closely related area, individuals seeking advanced licensure in BK, and for individuals seeking to expand study in a related area of licensure such as special education, elementary education, or family and consumer science education. Applicants lacking licensure or experience in the BK area must complete prerequisite coursework to make up deficiencies in required BK competencies. A 39-semester hour flexible program of study is developed to meet the needs of practicing professionals and allow for previously attained competencies of individual students.

#### **Program Need**

NC Department of Public Instruction data indicate that there is a shortage of BK teachers at the entry level and even more so at the graduate level. Individuals who hold graduate degrees are needed as administrators, consultants, and supervisors. NC community colleges are in need of master's-prepared instructors to meet the demand for practicing professionals in early childhood education. NC now requires childcare professionals to take courses in child development and early childhood administration to meet the new guidelines for licensure. The State's More-At-Four program began in 2001 and is in need of licensed BK teachers and supervisors. ECU is the only university within a 100-mile radius that offers coursework at the master's level in BK/early childhood education. An enrollment of 16 students (eight per year) is anticipated by the fourth year of the program.

#### **Resources**

Some current institutional resources will be reallocated to begin the program. No other additional state resources are required to implement the program.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a MAEd in Birth through Kindergarten Education degree at East Carolina University effective August 2004.