

APPENDIX I

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of School Administration Degree at North Carolina A&T State University

Introduction

North Carolina A&T State University requests authorization to establish a Master of School Administration degree (CIP# 13.0405) in January 2003.

Program Description

NCA&T proposes to develop and provide a Master of School Administration program that is aligned with Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium Standards for School Leaders, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and Standards for School Leaders in North Carolina. Graduates of the program will move into administrative positions at the school building level and assume positions with local, state, regional, and national organizations that focus on issues in professional development, research, and policy making. Completion of the program leads to eligibility for licensure from the NC State Department of Public Instruction. A yearlong internship in the second year of the program will follow coursework in leadership theory, law, policy and politics, ethics, assessment, diversity, technology, and management.

Program Need

North Carolina faces a shortage of school administrators due to the state's growing school enrollments that necessitate more schools and the imminent retirement of a large number of current administrators. More stringent licensing standards and a reduced number of institutions authorized to offer school administration training programs exacerbates the shortage. The result is a shrinking reserve pool of licensed administrators, fewer graduates of North Carolina training programs, and increasing numbers of out-of-state trained administrators being hired. Another significant consequence is the declining number of minority school administrator graduates. In 1989-1990, principal/assistant principal certificates were issued to 180 minority graduates compared to only 72 receiving such certificates in 1999-2000. During the same 10-year period, minority public school enrollment rose to 37 percent of the total, reinforcing the need for school leaders trained to understand diverse cultural experiences and achieve success for culturally diverse students. NCA&T anticipates enrollment of 60 full-time and 30 part-time students by the fourth year of the program.

Resources

As a focused-growth institution, NCA&T received funds from the UNC Office of the President to accelerate development of this program. The NCA&T School of Education has adequate space, equipment, and library resources to support the program. Current faculty members are adequate to begin the program, and additional funding will come from internal reallocations and enrollment growth funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of School Administration degree at North Carolina A&T State University effective January 1, 2003.