

## APPENDIX N

### **Request for Authorization to Plan a Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

#### **Introduction**

UNCC requests authorization to plan a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction (CIP # 13.0301). The UNC Graduate Council recommended approval of this request at its meeting in April 2002.

#### **Program Description**

The proposed degree will provide an opportunity for teachers and educational administrators to develop grounding in educational theory and practice and the research skills necessary to find new solutions to challenges in meeting the educational needs of students. The program will have an urban focus and it will include three areas of specialization: Literacy Education in English and Reading; Mathematics Education; and, Curriculum Leadership in Expanding Urban Environments. The urban-regional focus also includes an emphasis on multicultural and international needs and specialties as well as urban research in these areas. The College of Education at UNCC has planned the program consistent with the national goal to “leave no child behind.” The program is planned to contribute to North Carolina’s effort to support student achievement by strengthening the teaching force. The College believes that educational achievement requires a highly qualified teaching force and a highly qualified teaching force requires a teacher education faculty that generates new knowledge, investigates new solutions to educational challenges, and supports the professional development of the next generation of teachers.

The UNCC College of Education offers nine master’s programs in child and family studies, elementary education, English education, mathematics education, middle/secondary education, reading, teaching English as a second language, instructional systems technology, and, curriculum and supervision. The College also offers three doctoral programs: the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, the Ph.D. in Counseling, and the Ph.D. in Special Education. The UNC Board of Governors approved the doctorate in Special Education in June 2001 and it has already received funding from the US Department of Education Leadership Grant program to fully support 12 full-time doctoral students. With collaboration from the UNCC College of Arts and Sciences, the proposed doctorate will complete the doctorates in education for UNCC. The existing graduate program will provide courses and support for the proposed doctorate.

#### **Program Need**

To determine potential demand for the program, the UNCC College of Education conducted an extensive survey that produced qualitative and quantitative results that will enable program administrators to develop a doctorate that is responsive to articulated

needs. Program planners sent a needs assessment questionnaire to 1,739 prospective students of which 360 were completed and returned for a 23.4 percent response rate. Surveys were also sent to 195 organizational leaders within the region and 102 were completed and returned for a 52 percent response rate. UNCC was able to substantiate strong interest in the program and to assess the frequency of interests in program themes related to critical pedagogy, multicultural education, social justice and diverse populations and these results will help in the conceptualization of the doctorate.

The greatest number of prospective students were classroom teachers or teachers with some supervisory or administrative responsibilities along with teaching. Principals and assistant principals also responded favorably as well as central office staff and other schools system personnel. UNCC also received favorable responses from college and community college presidents who would encourage educational administrators to enroll in the program as well as English and math faculty. Both prospective students and organizational leaders identified the following specific needs and interests: program development/instructional design/supervision; an emphasis on diverse learners and their families; program evaluation/assessment/improvement; and, grant writing/securing external funds.

There are 3 doctorates in Curriculum and Instruction within the University of North Carolina located at: UNC Greensboro, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The proposed program will differ from these with its emphasis on urban education and a focus on literacy and mathematics education. The program expects to enroll 5 full-time students and 27 part-time students.

### **Resources**

The UNCC College of Education employs 75 faculty members and fifty percent of these have doctorates in Curriculum and Instruction. Funding for the program will come from enrollment increase money, a reallocation of internal funds, and from external sources such as grants.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs approve the request for authorization to plan a Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, effective May 2002.