

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Birth through Kindergarten Education at Fayetteville State University**

#### **Introduction**

Fayetteville State University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Birth through Kindergarten Education (CIP# 13.1204) on July 28, 2001. The university requests authorization to establish the program in January 2003.

#### **Program Description**

The Birth-Kindergarten program is intended for individuals who desire to understand the multiple, interrelated areas of child development and learning and who desire to work with all birth through kindergarten children—with and without exceptionalities—and their families. The program has two concentrations—the licensure track and the non-licensure track. The licensure track includes six hours of early field experiences in infant and toddler education and preschool education and a 12-week student teaching experience. The non-licensure track will require a minor in an area of focus such as special education, social work, psychology, or health education. This track is for students interested in working in settings other than public schools.

#### **Program Need**

A recent study in the Cumberland County area revealed that only 13 percent of childcare providers hold a BA or BS degree. In the 2000 Childcare Workforce Study conducted by the Cumberland County Partnership for Children, 395 respondents indicated they were interested in obtaining a baccalaureate degree, with 85 interested in a program in the immediate future. The most often cited reason for childcare centers in the Cumberland County area not receiving a licensure five-star rating is the lack of baccalaureate degrees in early childhood education among the childcare staff. The interest of Cumberland County public schools in establishing classes for four-year-olds, new Head Start federal guidelines, and interest expressed by community college students graduating with Applied Science degrees in early childhood education are additional reasons why this program is needed. By the fourth year of the program, it is anticipated that 25 full-time and 65 part-time students will be enrolled.

#### **Resources**

New funding will consist of enrollment increase funds, external grants, and internal reallocations; no other state funds are requested. The UNC Office of the President made a three-year program development loan of \$50,000 to plan and implement this program.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Birth through Kindergarten Education at Fayetteville State University effective January 2003.