

**Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of School Administration
Degree at Elizabeth City State University**

Introduction

Elizabeth City State University notified UNC General Administration of its intent to plan a Master of School Administration (CIP# 13.0401) in January 2005. ECSU requests authorization to establish the program in August 2006.

Program Description

ECSU proposes an MSA degree that will be offered by the School of Education & Psychology. The program will be interdisciplinary in scope and will offer students full-time (accelerated) and part-time (regular) options. The program will prepare individuals for licensure in school administration (Principal) and supervision (Curriculum Specialist 1). The program will employ several modes of instruction: traditional (lecture, small group activities, etc.); web-enhanced; and teleconferencing. MSA candidates in the full-time track will be enrolled in 9-12 credit hours each semester and complete a year-long internship. Students in the part-time track will take at least two courses per semester (including summer) for two years and in the third year participate in a year-long internship. It is anticipated that after four years 30 full-time and 70 part-time students will be enrolled in the program. The curriculum will cover professional knowledge, lifelong learning, communication skills, assessment and instructional strategies, leadership, ethics, best practices, and school law and finance.

Program Need

The program is designed to address the need for qualified school leaders in northeastern NC, and the primary targeted audience will be educators in the 21-county targeted area served by ECSU. The shortage of school leaders in NC is due to factors such as: increased numbers of individuals retiring, turnover, and the lack of comprehensive programs for professional development for principals and other school leaders. Needs assessment survey distributed to teachers via 201 principals in northeastern NC indicated that approximately 100 teachers were interested in enrolling in an MSA program at ECSU.

Resources

Several of the courses needed for the program already exist at ECSU for the existing master's in Elementary Education program. Additional costs for the program will be absorbed through reallocation of existing funds and from enrollment increase funds in future years. Adequate space exists to accommodate the program both for face-to-face classes and distance learning classes. Current faculty will teach in the program, and one will receive release time to serve as program coordinator. Several experts in school leadership in the region have indicated willingness to serve as guest lecturers and adjunct faculty. Library resources, including electronic databases, are deemed adequate and will be expanded as needed in future years.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of School Administration at Elizabeth City State University effective August 2006.