



The Standard of Excellence  
in Teacher Preparation

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education  
Arthur E. Wise  
President

October 30, 2006

Robert W. Mendenhall  
President  
Western Governors University  
4001 South 700 East  
Suite 700  
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Dear President Mendenhall:

At its October 16-21, 2006 meeting in Washington, DC, the Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) considered the application for accreditation of the Teachers College as the unit that oversees the professional education offerings at Western Governors University. I am pleased to inform you of the Unit Accreditation Board's decision to grant accreditation to the Teachers College at Western Governors University at the initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels. This accreditation decision indicates that the unit and its programs meet rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you and your professional education unit for displaying the high quality necessary to be granted national accreditation. I would also like to express appreciation for the cooperation received from the faculty, staff, and administration of your institution. The copy of this letter sent to the head of your professional education unit includes a certificate in acknowledgement of the unit's accomplishment.

Strengths noted in the Board of Examiners report have not been reiterated but are certainly considered part of the institution's accreditation visit record. You may use the information provided in the Board of Examiners report at your discretion. Any areas for improvement that have been cited are listed in the enclosed areas for improvement document.

Because the spring 2006 visit was a first accreditation visit for Western Governors University, the next NCATE visit is scheduled for spring 2011. You will begin to receive materials for that visit approximately two years prior to the visit. (In partnership states, the actual date of the visit must be determined jointly by the state and NCATE.) In addition, your institution will be required to complete a Professional Education Data System instrument each year during the accreditation period. You are not required to report specifically on progress in the areas for improvement cited, but you are encouraged

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to do so. During the accreditation period, you will be expected to report evaluations and changes in relation to all six standards.

Enclosed is a copy of NCATE's Policies on Dissemination of Information, which describes the terms and dates by which your current accreditation action becomes a matter of public record and lists other parties who will be notified of accreditation action. If your state has a partnership agreement with NCATE, the state agency with program approval authority receives a copy of this letter.

To assist you in letting potential students and the public know the benefits of attending a professionally accredited institution, we have also enclosed an information packet in the copy of this letter sent to the head of the education unit. Please feel free to contact NCATE's Communications Department if you would like further assistance.

Should you have any questions regarding NCATE's action or the items reported herein, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,



Arthur E. Wise

Enclosures

cc: Janet W. Schnitz, Associate Dean, Teachers College  
Gail Johnson, Educational Specialist, Teacher Education, Utah State Office of  
Education  
Board of Examiners Team