TO: CSU Deans of Education

FROM: Beverly L. Young, Ph.D.
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SUBJECT: Systemwide Teacher Education Development Initiatives

As we've discussed previously, the CSU is continuing to utilize the results of our evaluation study to focus on program improvement. As a system, we've focused in the past on secondary reading instruction and are currently beginning a statewide effort around the effectiveness of preparation for general education teachers with special education students.

I have also discussed with most of you an additional and concurrent approach to CSU program improvement, focused on evaluation results. In reviewing each campus' accountability report, several topics emerged as challenging areas for preservice programs, across numerous campuses. In recognition of the very positive and productive work that has emerged when multi-campus faculty have been given the opportunity to work together in the past, we'd like to facilitate this collaboration around some of the most commonly recognized areas for program examination and change. With the exception of the general education/special education topic (which the entire system will be engaged in) the following topics generate the most interest, based loosely on a specific evaluation composite grouping:

- Preparing to Use Education Technology (E-3)
- Preparing to Teach Science (B-3)
- Preparing to Teach History-Social Studies (B-4)
- Preparing to Assess and Reflect (C-6)
- Preparing to Work with English Learners (D-4)
- Preparing to Work with At-Risk Populations (not a composite directly, but commonly identified as a need)
- Working with Parents and Community (not a composite directly, but commonly identified as a need)
- Student Behavior and Classroom Management (not a composite directly, but commonly identified as a need)
In conjunction with our continuing systemwide effort to improve secondary reading instruction and our new initiative with general/special education content, we are also beginning this more "localized" effort. Each campus is now asked to identify one or two areas from the above list that they will choose to focus on for improvement in the upcoming year. (This will be, of course, in addition to any other effort that your campus may also choose to begin on your own.) At the CO, we will compile the groupings of which campuses have chosen to be included in each topic group, and then convene meetings of the faculty representatives that you designate as your campus "delegate(s)" to this group. The Chancellor's Office will cover the travel expense of your representative(s) to these meetings, and the cost of hosting the meetings. Faculty representatives will be asked to attend these meetings prepared to share specifics about your program operation in the targeted area, issues about the topic, and to discuss a variety of options for improvement. It is our intention that campuses will be able to design innovations and program change based on learning from their CSU colleagues, and collectively establish some ideas for best practices that may inform each campus program. There is no expectation that every campus will make changes in their program in the same way, only that each campus participating will learn from other programs and find ways to share these learnings with their own campus colleagues to see how they might apply to each program.

Additionally, the CO will identify at least one campus program in each of these areas that has experienced high levels of success in this area as evidenced by the evaluation results. We will invite representatives from these campuses to join the group discussions, present their program best practices along with the others, and participate in discussions about possible changes and improvements.

At present, I am asking each campus dean to share this information with their program faculty, and to discuss together which one or two areas you wish to identify for work in the upcoming year. As you select one or two of the topics, please also let me know if you are planning to focus on a specific program or to work more generically (for example—Science, but only in the multiple subject program; English Learners, across MS, SS, and ES). I'm sure you will recognize the importance of gaining your faculty's input and agreement in the selection of these areas, as well as their commitment to participate and take action based on the collective work.

We will have the opportunity to talk more about the specifics of this initiative at the upcoming deans' meeting in San Diego. I realize that faculty are not available for discussion on this topic until the academic year begins, but hope that you will put this topic on your earliest agenda with them and be able to respond with your campus' choice as soon as possible. Thanks again for your help in launching this important initiative for CSU continuous improvement in teacher preparation!

BY/ssg

c: CSU Presidents
    Charles B. Reed
    David S. Spence
    Keith O. Boyum