

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST TO OFFER OFF-CAMPUS GRADUATE PROGRAM

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to offer an off-campus graduate program in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University proposes to offer a graduate program – Master of Education Program in Educational Leadership - in Ottumwa. This program will expand career opportunities for place-bound students. By providing quality distance learning experiences, this program will allow students in the southeastern part of the state to complete a graduate program at a convenient location.

No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. Iowa State University received accreditation approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to offer this off-campus program. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan objectives (1.0) to “ensure high-quality educational opportunities for students” (1.1) to “offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students.”

Background:

- ◆ **Description of program.** The Master of Education Program in Educational Leadership is designed primarily for working adults who wish to pursue graduate study in educational administration. Integrated program components include a cohort model, reflective practice, intensive clinical experience, designated mentors, and a demonstration portfolio indicating mastery of the Iowa Standards for School Leaders (ISSL).
- ◆ **Relationship to existing programs at ISU.** ISU has approval for on-campus delivery of Master’s and Ph.D. programs as well as for off-campus delivery of offerings in Ankeny, Atlantic, Mason City, and Storm Lake. This request adds off-campus delivery at Ottumwa through its cohort model and enhances access through multiple course delivery mechanisms, including face-to-face in off-campus locations and on-line. This proposed location supports the department’s efforts to enhance the intellectual, cultural, social, and ethical potential of students and faculty in Iowa. Faculty members serve on statewide committees for the Iowa Department of Education, School Administrators of Iowa, Iowa Association of School Boards, and other organizations to strengthen institutional connections throughout the state.
- ◆ **Duplication.** Other colleges and universities in Iowa which offer the same or similar program include the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, Clarke College, Drake University, Loras College, and St. Ambrose University.

- ◇ Demand for program. When the Iowa Department of Education (IDOE) required colleges and universities to resubmit their curricula for the superintendent preparation program, ISU's Certificate of Advanced Studies was the only program approved unconditionally by IDOE. IDOE has noted that ISU's superintendency program, which features a spiral curriculum focused on eight dilemmas of practice, is the most innovative in the state. The projected number of graduates at all sites is approximately 135 per year.
- ◇ Delivery methods. A combination of face-to-face and on-line instruction will be provided to students. Face-to-face classes will be offered at off-site locations. Off-campus cohorts will not be required to attend classes in Ames or to fulfill a residency requirement.
- ◇ Required resources. ISU recently recruited two new tenure-line faculty members to assist with advising needs and course delivery. These additions will support growth of the program.
- ◇ Cost. The new cost for the additional off-campus location in Ottumwa will be approximately \$1,500 per year for transportation, food, lodging, and materials. Existing faculty will be used to deliver the program to all off-campus locations.
- ◇ Anticipated enrollment. The total projected enrollment for this program at all sites is 65-70 students per year. The cohort in Ottumwa is expected to enroll approximately 10 students.
- ◇ Higher Learning Commission/North Central Association accreditation. Iowa State University's institutional accreditation includes off-campus program offerings unless more than 50% of the program is offered as face-to-face instruction at an off-campus location. Programs which meet this threshold must obtain individual approval from the Commission. Since this program will be offered entirely off-campus in Ottumwa, ISU sought accreditation approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer this off-campus program. In January 2010, ISU was notified that all accreditation requirements had been met to offer this off-campus program in Ottumwa.
- ◇ Link to Strategic Plan. The proposed request addresses ISU's mission "to create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place."
- ◇ Date of change. Iowa State University anticipates beginning a cohort for this program in Spring 2010.