

REQUEST FOR A NEW COLLABORATIVE PILOT LICENSE PROGRAM
IOWA TEACHER INTERN LICENSE

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the three Regent universities to establish a new collaborative pilot Iowa Teacher Intern License (ITIL) program which will be jointly administered by the three Regent universities.

Executive Summary: The proposed license program will prepare experienced post-baccalaureate individuals to teach in grades 7-12 in Iowa schools. The proposed program will offer coursework in pedagogy which will meet licensure requirements; content area endorsement requirements must be met by candidates prior to the internship. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. The proposed program addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority (1.0) to “ensure high-quality educational opportunities for students” and strategy (1.3) “to provide educational experiences that enhance the knowledge, abilities, opportunities, and personal incomes of individual Iowans through educational attainment.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The proposed ITIL will consist of 24 credit hours – 18 credit hours will occur in fall, spring, May, and summer terms prior to the internship; and six credit hours will occur during the internship year in conjunction with the state-required district mentor program. Four additional credit hours will be waived with the permission of the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. Legislation created in 2000 allows institutions of higher education to develop and provide teacher intern license programs. The legislation requires specific coursework and a minimum of 50 hours of field experience prior to the internship. Intern teachers will be assessed by the ITIL assessment criteria for partial fulfillment of the licensure requirements and by the district administrator for recommendation for the initial teaching license.
- ◇ **Unique features.** The proposed ITIL will provide courses tailored to older students. Interns will teach full-time at full pay for the entire year while they are completing additional coursework. The internship year also counts for the first year of the two-year initial license period. The expectations for ITIL students will not only meet those of the traditional teacher preparation programs but will also exceed them in terms of eligibility, acceptance into the program, and coursework and field experience expectations. The qualities that the interns bring to ITIL will be valuable in helping secondary students realize the value of learning and contributing to society. Furthermore, the proposed program intends to personalize many of the course activities and outcomes to the district where the internship will occur to provide interns with authentic learning opportunities.
- ◇ **Duplication.** Kaplan University is the only other institution in the state whose program meets the Iowa code requirements for alternative licensure.
- ◇ **Program delivery.** The proposed ITIL will be delivered through a hybrid system of distance delivery and face-to-face classes.

- ◇ Student demand. The three Regent universities, as well as the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and the Iowa Department of Education, reported an increase in queries for alternative teacher licensure programs. College graduates who are seeking a mid-career change or who have been affected by the downturn in the economy are expected to be particularly interested in this alternative licensure opportunity.
- ◇ Need/Demand. Teacher shortages in some content areas have been increasing during the past few years. As the current population of teachers 50 years of age or older reaches retirement and teacher attrition continues in younger populations, the need to augment traditional teacher preparation programs will increase.

The Iowa Department of Education prepared an analysis comparing the expected teacher retirements¹ across the state with the projected number of graduates in certain content areas. While the current economic conditions might have slowed the number of retirements, it is apparent from the following table that, at some point, the number of graduates in some content areas will be significantly less than the number of retirements.

	Agri.	Fam/Cons Science	Indust. Tech	Music	Math	Biology	Chem.	Gen. Sci.	Phys. Sci.	Physics
Ready to retire 07-08	19	78	94	159	214	185	116	155	85	101
Projected graduates 07-08	7	21	26	165	120	85	38	41	27	16
Projected graduates 08-09	20	19	16	137	109	92	44	49	28	19

- ◇ Contributions to the collaborative. There are two levels of contributions to the collaborative.
 - The three Regent universities have shared equally in creating the mission and goals of the program, designing the program of study and assessments, establishing the criteria for admission to the program, and administering different aspects involved in creating such a collaborative.
 - In contributing to the administration of the proposed ITIL, designated resources and services will be differentiated to avoid duplication.
 - ◆ The University of Iowa will oversee registrations and the distance delivery of the proposed program, including technology support.
 - ◆ Iowa State University will provide program evaluation services and monitor the attrition rates among the licensed interns during a five-year period.
 - ◆ The University of Northern Iowa will provide the coordination of the proposed program and leadership in the state approval process.

The Board of Educational Examiners has indicated that ITIL courses designed specifically for the proposed program by the three Regent universities will count toward the initial license.

¹ "Ready to retire" includes teachers that have met the rule of 88. According to the Department of Education, approximately 50% of those ready to retire, do so the first year they are eligible.

- ◇ Consultation efforts. Consultation between the three Regent universities, the Board of Educational Examiners, and the Iowa Department of Education has been ongoing since 2008. A Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant for \$158,000 was obtained in 2008 to begin development of a program proposal. The Iowa Math and Science Education Partnership has also been consulted to solicit collaboration opportunities.
- ◇ Cost. The instructional, technology, and evaluation costs provided by each respective institution for the proposed program will be absorbed into their existing expenditures. Year 1 costs at UNI are projected to be approximately \$97,000 for a program coordinator. By Year 7, the costs are projected to be approximately \$176,000 for a program coordinator and support staff.
- ◇ Projected enrollment. The projected enrollment is eight students in Year 1, increasing to 25 students by Year 7. Demand for the proposed program is expected to grow as individuals become aware of the opportunities. Individuals who realize that teaching opportunities can now be available to them are likely to be recruited into the program.
- ◇ Accreditation. UNI is expected to obtain conditional approval from the Iowa Department of Education in Summer 2009. Full approval is expected in February 2010, which coincides with the UNI Teacher Education Program approval cycle.