Nebraska Council on Teacher Education

Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education

August 3, 2015

Dr. Matt Blomstedt, Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South, POB 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Dear Dr. Blomstedt:

Each Nebraska educator preparation program is required to complete a comprehensive state approval process every seven years to determine compliance with 92 NAC 20, *Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs.* The *Organizational Policies of the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education* (NCTE) charge the Council with recommending college program approval using the standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The process includes an extensive review of the preparation program in compliance with endorsement program requirements (92 NAC 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements,* and accompanying Guidelines) and outcomes. NCTE membership, content specialists, and NDE staff are involved in the state approval process.

The review is completed in two segments. The offsite segment (i.e., folio review) involves an examination of documentation regarding the program's compliance and effectiveness, including data related to the educator preparation and endorsement program outcomes. The onsite segment (conducted in conjunction with national accreditation visits as applicable) provides the state approval team an opportunity to seek additional information and/or validate claims made during the folio review process. Institutions are required to address all areas of noncompliance (if any), and report to the NCTE Executive Council, presenting either documentation that the issues have been resolved or documentation of progress and a timeline for completion. The Executive Committee then recommends approval for action by the full NCTE council.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, Grace University underwent the state approval process. On May 1, 2015, the NCTE Executive Committee considered the documentation and recommended full approval of Grace University to the NCTE Council for action. On June 12, 2015, Grace University received full NCTE Council approval. The NCTE *Organizational Policies* further stipulate that the President of NCTE shall forward the NCTE

2015-2016 NCTE Executive Committee

Mark Adler, President
NE Council of School Administrators

Phyllis Spethman, President-Elect
NE Association of Colleges of Teacher Education

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NE Association of Colleges of Teacher Education

Donna Moss
NE State Education Association

Sharon Katt
NE Department of Education

Kevin Peters
NE Department of Education

Council's recommendation to the Commissioner of Education for State Board of Education action. Therefore, I am forwarding NCTE's recommendation to you for formal approval. The documents and data submitted by the institutions during the state approval process, as well as review team reports, are on file with the NDE Teacher Education Programs office.

On behalf of NCTE, I want to thank you for your support of NCTE and for the critical work of preparing Nebraska teachers. NCTE takes its role as an advisory body to the State Board of Education very seriously and continues to be engaged in efforts to address the challenges and opportunities facing educator preparation in our state.

Sincerely,

Mark Adler, President
Nebraska Council on Teacher Education