

February 19, 2009

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

**ACTION REQUEST**

**SUBJECT:** A new degree program for the School of Education, University of Michigan-Dearborn

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval of a new degree program, "Doctorate in Education Degree," to be offered by the School of Education, University of Michigan-Dearborn

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, 2009

The School of Education (SOE) at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (UM-Dearborn) proposes to establish a graduate program leading to a Doctorate in Education degree (Ed.D.). This will be a non-Rackham degree program.

The need for an Ed.D. degree with a metropolitan focus in the Detroit area is great, and its development within the SOE is an excellent fit to UM-Dearborn's mission to provide the citizens of southeast Michigan with relevant programming that is well-matched to the economic, social, and political challenges that face our region. Because of the strength of its faculty, the existing availability of institutional resources to support student learning and research, and its carefully drawn plans to ensure the fiscal viability of the proposed doctorate, the SOE is particularly well-positioned to develop and offer a high-quality, accessible and affordable Ed.D. degree for working professionals in the greater metropolitan community.

Strong Ed.D. programs are designed to produce graduates who can solve practical problems in a specific context. The SOE is already practitioner-focused by design and history, and it can draw upon close ties that exist with PK-12 schools and community colleges in the metropolitan area for both prospective students and professional guidance for the program. The need for suitably prepared administrators and educational specialists to provide effective leadership in public school districts and community colleges in southeast Michigan is indisputable. The UM-Dearborn through its School of Education is committed to assisting its community partners in fulfilling this need and in so doing promoting greater access to outstanding educational opportunities for the next generation of citizens in southeastern Michigan. The establishment of the Ed.D. degree on our campus is both a natural and necessary step in achieving this goal.

The dean, executive committee, and governing faculty of the SOE have approved the Doctorate in Education degree. The UM-Dearborn Graduate Board and provost and vice-chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Michigan-Dearborn have also extended their support. The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, approved it on January 23, 2009.

I am pleased to present this proposal for your approval.

Recommended by:



Daniel Little, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

February 2009