

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: Doctor of Education (EdD) Degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Michigan-Flint

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to grant the Doctor of Education (EdD) Degree in Educational Leadership through the School of Education and Human Services at the University of Michigan-Flint

EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2013

The School of Education and Human Services at the University of Michigan-Flint proposes to offer a Doctor of Education (EdD) Degree in Educational Leadership. The proposed program is designed to fit the needs of a population of teachers and administrators who have an Education Specialist (EdS) degree and wish to enhance their credentials in one of two cognate areas of leadership, that of curriculum and instructional leadership or educational executive leadership.

The proposed program is in response to an expressed need of regional practitioners for a degree program in educational leadership, that is not only from people in the greater Flint area, but also individuals from a practical commuting distance to Flint. Needs assessment results indicate that target population of potential students will include: teachers who aspire to be K-12 curriculum directors; administrators at the building level who are interested in central office administration in Human Relations, Finance, Curriculum, Assistant Superintendency, or Superintendency; and individuals from both ranks of teachers and administrators with an ultimate goal of a doctoral degree. A review of similar programs in the State reveals that only 4 of the 15 public universities currently offer an EdD degree.

Based on the results of the needs assessment and consultations with potential feeder partners, we would anticipate enrolling an initial cohort of around 15 to 20 students. The size and subsequent cohorts will be limited based upon available capacity and success in hiring additional full-time faculty.

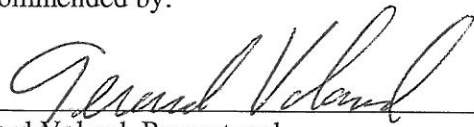
Distinct to Michigan schools are two additional needs for the proposed EdD degree with emphasis in leadership. In the spring of 2010 there was an early incentive program for administrators to leave the state's employment which has left a vacuum in experienced leadership in Michigan schools. In addition, there has been a reinstatement of the requirement for an administrative certificate for Michigan school leaders (January 2010) after that requirement had been abolished in 1996.

The University of Michigan-Flint is in a unique position to offer the Doctor of Education program. Surveys of potential graduate students in the UM-Flint service region consistently reveal that this population of students is "place-bound" and that over-all one of the highest factors affecting student enrollment is location. The most important factor, however, was the UM-Flint's reputation of offering quality graduate education. Of importance to these potential students are the quality of faculty who have experience in the field and the flexibility and online convenience factors. In addition, for over a decade, the Genesee Intermediate School District and its 21 constituent school districts have cooperated in a very successful venture to identify and nurture future school leaders. The Genesee County Academy for Beginning Administrators is the vehicle that drives this effort. It is sponsored by the Greater Flint Educational Consortium where the University of Michigan-Flint is one of five permanent members.

The proposed 34 credit-hour, 20-month (plus Doctoral Study) would be a cohort program, offered part-time in a dual modality of online and monthly Saturday campus residency. It will complement our existing Education Specialist degree, i.e. 34 post EdS credits (64 post-MA credits). The proposed program offers several distinctive features which distinguish it from other public Michigan universities in the region including: cohort consisting largely of individuals from the region; opportunity to specialize in curriculum or executive leadership; mixed-mode format with Saturday residencies; oral comprehensive exam and concentration in one of the two cognate areas; and utilization of local administration and curriculum experts.

The proposed Doctor of Education (EdD) Degree in Educational Leadership has been thoroughly reviewed and supported by the School of Education and Human Services, Graduate Programs Committee, Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Budget and Strategic Planning, Academic Assessment Committee, the provost and chancellor. The program will be implemented upon approval from the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan pending the Board of Regents approval.

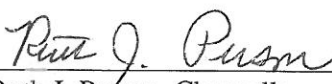
Recommended by:



Gerard Voland, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

October 2012

Recommendation endorsed by:



Ruth J. Person, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint