

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**ACADEMIC PLAN III**

**2009-2014**

## INTRODUCTION

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

---Nelson Mandela

When completed and approved, this document will serve as the academic planning guideline for the College of Education for the period 2009 to 2014. The plan is organized around the motifs developed in *Creation of the Future: Access, Excellence, Leadership* and is intended to be complementary to the further development of University Plan III. Departmental and unit level academic plans for 2009-14 are complementary and supplementary to the college plan. This plan has been developed through small and large group discussion, input, feedback, and revision to allow for elaboration and refinement of the ideas and themes presented here.

Any academic planning guide must be grounded in the mission of the unit. The mission of the College of Education is to provide quality education through the development of prospective teachers, counselors, adult educators, and school leaders; to provide continuing educational opportunities for members of those professions; to support inquiry and research which further our understanding and practice of effective teaching and learning; and to provide service to the state and nation through professional partnerships and organizations. We are ***committed to excellence in education at all levels***.

As we draw to the close of the College of Education Academic Plan II this year, we are able to document significant accomplishments on the large and small scales across curricula, assessment, areas of distinction, capacity, diversity and internationalization, the learning environment, and expanded collaborations. Not the least of these accomplishments is our continuing accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) through spring 2016 and our accreditation through March of 2012 by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Our reflection on these accomplishments also provides us with opportunities and new directions for our AP III to leverage our work into what is anticipated to be a pivotal stage of history for the University of Wyoming.

## THE MOTIFS

**Motif 1: Building depth versus adding breadth.** We are committed to moving all existing programs toward excellence. With the four Wyoming Excellence Chairs allocated to the College of Education, our capacity to build depth is enhanced for professional preparations in Literacy and Reading Education, Mathematics Education, and Science Education.

**CoEd Goal:** Leverage the critical masses of faculty expertise in the College to strengthen undergraduate and graduate programs college-wide.

*Action Item 1:* Support departmental initiatives to:

- review, revise, and enhance degree, endorsement, and certificate programs
- expand international efforts (student and faculty)
- advance multiculturalism and diversity initiatives throughout the College, including efforts to recruit and retain a diverse student body and faculty
- continue efforts associated with student, program, and post-graduate assessment
- leverage relevant CoEd interdisciplinary graduate programs and undergraduate programs for collaborations with the School of Energy Resources (SER) and other environment and natural resources (ENR) initiatives
- improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education with leadership from CoEd faculty in collaboration with the Science-Mathematics Teaching Center and relevant departments in the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Engineering & Applied Science.

**Motif 2: Reinforcing and refining areas of distinction.** The CoEd AP II included action items in three of the areas of distinction: critical areas of science and technology, environment and natural resources, and professions critical to the state and region. These action items represent the next generation of our efforts in these areas of distinction.

**CoEd Goal:** Support and grow the intellectual, cultural, and scholarly leadership necessary to promote excellence in these areas of distinction: critical areas of science and technology, culturally sensitive education, and professions critical to the state and region, including special education, counselor education and mental health, science education, English and literacy education, early childhood education, and mathematics education.

*Action Item 2:* With leadership from the Wyoming School-University Partnership, advance and infuse the fundamental concepts of the Agenda for Education in a Democracy and the central role of schooling within a democratic society across internal and external constituents, including (but not limited to) the Wyoming Teacher Education Programs, UW/CC, the College of Arts & Sciences, PK-12 school districts and communities in Wyoming, Wyoming community colleges, the Wyoming Department of Education, and the Wyoming P-16 Council.

**CoEd Goal:** Elevate the College's national stature in research and scholarship to bolster the visibility and impact of faculty members' research.

*Action Item 3:* In consultation with the Office of Research, identify and implement a process for increasing participation by CoEd faculty in competitively funded grant activities which may include a mix of individual awards and interdisciplinary or cross-college initiatives (e.g., the Haub School for Environment and Natural Resources, WyGISC, the Art Museum).

*Action Item 4:* Explore opportunities and strategies for the organization and structure of the CoEd to better support faculty engagement in broad scholarly activities including (but not limited to) applied research in field settings, grant development and research, cross-college collaborations, and expanded mentoring of doctoral students while maintaining our reputation for high quality service and teaching.

**Motif 3: Promoting access to higher education.** Access issues in the CoEd include a variety of potential directions for us. Fertile ground for our work in this motif includes:

- funding for non-traditional students and graduate fellowships
- statewide outreach and partnerships with Wyoming community colleges
- distance access to graduate programs and professional development
- opportunities for study abroad and international student exchanges
- recruitment and retention of students, staff, and faculty of color
- support for initiatives designed to increase the proportion of Wyoming students who achieve baccalaureate degrees

**CoEd Goal:** Participate in UW and collaborative initiatives to promote access and simplified transition to CoEd and Science-Mathematics Teaching Center programs.

*Action Item 5:* In cooperation with the P-16 Council, the Wyoming Department of Education, the Outreach School Academic Coordinators in Wyoming community colleges, UW/CC, the Wyoming School-University Partnership, and the CoEd Development Board, identify and implement strategies to improve communications and articulation with school districts, school counselors, and community college faculty in education regarding all aspects of entry to and completion of programs in the CoEd.

**CoEd Goal:** Respond to the reality that our nation's rich diversity continues to increase and our world in increasingly interconnected, both economically and politically resulting in exciting challenges for our education systems and our preparation of school personnel. Our commitment to this goal includes support for: a) the action items proposed by the International Education Steering Committee and WIND, and b) investigation of a program in GLBT/Q/NS Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

*Action Item 6:* Capitalize on the growing number of faculty across several departments in the CoEd with expertise to support multicultural and culturally sensitive education, infuse social justice constructs and special education content across the curricula, teach diverse student populations, and support students learning English as a second language at all levels (P-16) by building on this nucleus of expertise to increase access opportunities for post-secondary and non-traditional students in the College. See also: Action Item #14 proposed by the International Education Steering Committee.

*Action Item 7:* Support the continuation and expansion of the Transitions Summits with continued leadership from the Wyoming School-University Partnership and collaborations with the Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming P-16 Council.

**CoEd Goal:** Respond to continual pressures to provide lifelong learning and professional development opportunities for inservice teachers throughout Wyoming.

*Action Item 8:* Develop a *Wyoming Professional Development Plan* that defines a responsive yet manageable set of professional development contributions across inservice teachers and other school personnel (e.g., principals, superintendents, curriculum specialists, technology coordinators, counselors, early childhood specialists).

**CoEd Goal:** Expand the recruitment and increase the retention of under-represented students, staff, and faculty in the CoEd.

*Action Item 9:* Charge the newly created CoEd Advisory Council on Diversity with prioritization and identification of action items related to multiculturalism, diversity, and international opportunity with emphasis on the definition of “diversity” adopted in spring 2008 for consideration by the CoEd Leadership Council and development of an implementation plan with departmental input.

**Motif 4: Fostering excellence.** The CoEd is poised for excellence and national reputation across several program areas. With the hire of four Wyoming Excellence Chairs completed (anticipated complete for fall 2009), we will first focus on programs (graduate and undergraduate; directly and indirectly related to) in Literacy/Reading Education, Mathematics Education, and Science Education while continuing efforts to raise the national reputation of all programs.

**CoEd Goal:** Strengthen graduate programs.

*Action Item 10:* Review and revise as necessary the program curricula (including admission criteria and student assessment systems) to strengthen the Ph.D. in Education for Options in Literacy Education, Mathematics Education, and Science Education.

*Action Item 11:* Increase the number of doctoral students within faculty capacity across all graduate programs through collaborations and coordination with the Graduate School, Academic Affairs, CoEd Advisory Council on Graduate Education, Science-Mathematics Teaching Center, Office of Research, and others to identify long-term funding for at least 12 additional doctoral graduate assistantships.

**CoEd Goal:** Continue our leadership role in statewide efforts to build the capacity to provide quality care, education, and workforce development focused on children in the state.

*Action Item 12:* Advance activities and efforts associated with undergraduate and graduate programs (certificate and degree) in early childhood, literacy, special education, counseling, addictions, and mental health through collaborations with state agencies (e.g., DFS, DHS, DWS, WY Children’s Action Alliance), the UW Department of Family and Consumer Science, Wyoming community colleges, UW/CC, and activities endowed or

supported in the CoEd (e.g., Early Care and Education Center, Play Therapy Institute, Literacy Conference, Ellbogen Symposium for Teaching and Learning, CARE Center).

**CoEd Goal:** Continue to address the facilities and staffing issues that support or detract from our excellence goals in collaboration with Academic Affairs, UW Facilities, the UW Foundation, and the CoEd Development Board.

*Action Item 13:* Seek sufficient budgetary support and adequate facilities to:

- Establish a *Center for Literacy* to solidify and support scholarship in literacy, reading, and related arenas that extend to all facets of education at the Prekindergarten through Grade 12 levels
- Secure additional staff to support the *Center for Literacy*
- Upgrade the *Counselor Education Clinic* (including but not limited to space, technology, staffing)
- Expand, centralize, and renovate as necessary faculty and staff office space and graduate work areas utilized by the College and the Science-Mathematics Teaching Center in Wyo Hall
- Update the CoEd Facilities Plan to include major maintenance and full renovation of the east wing of the garden level in the Education Building and all CoEd space in McWhinnie Hall
- Continue efforts to provide access to contemporary and sufficient classroom instructional technologies in all CoEd facilities that support faculty integration within teaching and which support further development of such professional skills for inservice and preservice audiences.

**Motif 5: Cultivating leadership.** The CoEd continues to provide leadership to a broad array of local, regional, statewide, institutional, national, and international conversations and initiatives. Our programs are arguably critical at all levels and across all potential audiences. Faculty expertise and capacity to provide leadership in teaching and administration (P-20) is extensive.

**CoEd Goal:** Continue to have a positive impact on the UW community with innovative and effective examples of student assessment and program level assessment plans while maintaining strong alignment of curricula and program design with state, federal, and professional standards.

*Action Item 14:* Identify the funding, process(es), instrumentation, and timeline(s) necessary for follow-up assessment of alumni (graduate and undergraduate, including UW/CC).