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LINDENWOOD

LU to Offer Doctorate in Education

Lindenwood University has received approval to offer its first doctoral program ever—a Doctor of Education degree. The program will launch in the spring 2007 semester, and classes are being scheduled now.

James D. Evans, acting president, announced today that the university would begin offering the Ed.D immediately.

“Demand for this degree has been overwhelming,” said Evans. “We are very excited to offer the doctorate to the St. Louis region. I am certain the program will be filled quickly, and we will begin populating a waiting list.”

The program will accommodate 50 students initially and eventually will have more than 200 students at any one time. Rick Boyle, dean of the education division at Lindenwood, said the smaller initial number of students will allow the procedures to be well established before enrollment is expanded. Boyle said interest in the program has been high among the education community, especially those who have received Lindenwood’s Educational Specialist degree (which is one level above a master’s degree) and want to move on to the next step.

“We added the specialist degree in 2001 as an intermediate step between a master’s and a doctorate,” Boyle said. “It has been very popular, and many of the students in that program were asking when we would have a doctorate available.”

For more information about the new program, email John Dougherty in the Lindenwood Education division at jdougherty@lindenwood.edu or call him at 636-949-4937.

Boyle said that students can still enter the specialist program, but from now on, they will be able to go directly into the doctorate program after getting a master’s.

Students who have the specialist degree already will be able to apply coursework from that program toward the Ed.D. The 48-credit-hour Ed.D. program is available in an Educational Administration track and an Instructional Leadership track. While the former is for those wishing to pursue careers in education administration (such as principal or superintendent), the latter is for anyone who wants to maximize his or her instructional strategy skills.

“That track could be for classroom teachers, curriculum writers, professional development people or even, say, MBAs who want to hone their instructional skills for corporate training or anything else,” Boyle said.

Boyle said the approval process for the new program was exhausting and, in the end, very satisfying.

“We submitted a 1,100-page institutional report as the basis for the visit by the review team,” Boyle said. “This, to me, is the biggest and most exciting thing in my professional career. It’s a great sense of accomplishment to be able to do this; we had a good team working on it.”

Approval of the degree was granted earlier this month by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. It was the culmination of a visit to Lindenwood by an evaluation team from

the commission in September, which was preceded by an application process that started two years earlier.

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