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## LU Receives High Marks in Teacher Education Accreditation

10/13/2008



The Missouri State Board of Education voted to approve the extension of accreditation Lindenwood University's teacher education programs for the next seven years. The approval was recommended by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education following an extensive review process that included a five-day visit from an evaluation team in March.

"There were many favorable comments from the state board members and president," said Cynthia Bice, dean of Lindenwood's School of Education. "We heard terms like 'phenomenal' and 'outstanding' from the review team. They were very impressed. Lindenwood University faculty and alumni from the past seven years can be very proud of this accomplishment and of the excellent reputation that our students have in this state and beyond."

Bice said the report covered eight "unit standards" within the School of Education and 42 "program standards"—for each of the subject areas in which Lindenwood offers a teacher certification.

No deficiencies were detected in any of the unit or program standards. Because that is the case, the Lindenwood School of Education will not be reviewed again until 2015.

Prior to the March visit, the university submitted a comprehensive report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), whose evaluation program, implemented in 2000, is known as the Missouri Standards for Teacher Education Programs (MoSTEP).

After the visit, the state team evaluated the data from the visit and Lindenwood's submitted institutional report to arrive at their decision to recommend program renewal, which the board of education formally ratified at its meeting Wednesday.

In July, Bice received a letter from DESE lauding the submitted materials and requesting permission to use them as a model to show other programs how to assemble their reports.

"You and your institution have demonstrated and established a new level of excellence in developing your documentation; reporting the results; and hosting an excellent review," said the letter, by Gale Hairston, director of educator preparation for DESE.

Bice said much of the credit for the successful review belongs to Richard Boyle, who was dean of the Education Division during many of the seven years covered in the report; Boyle is currently vice president for human resources at Lindenwood. She added that the reasons for the success of the report and visit go well beyond the School of Education.

"I'm very proud of how we all came together as a university to put together the institutional report and hosted the review team," Bice said. "Because every division was involved in the preparation of the report and in the visit, the results are an endorsement not only of the School of Education but of the entire university. I want to thank everyone involved for making this possible."