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School of Education Advisory Panels to Help Provide Career-Ready Graduates

March 6, 2017

Lindenwood University's School of Education will hold the first meeting of its reorganized 2016-2017 Teacher Education Advisory Panel at 5:30 p.m. on April 18 in the university's Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room, located in the Spellmann Campus Center on the St. Charles campus.

The school has sought advisory input in various delivery methods for over a decade through many meetings with area educators. Since 2008, the school had advisories for leadership, counseling, STEM, literacy, and special education.

"Recently the School of Education restructured the Council of Teacher Education into the Board of Educator Preparation Programs (BEPP), which oversees departmental councils and advisory panels in order to better align with our School of Education Mission and Vision," said Dean of Education Dr. Cynthia Bice. "The first purpose of the department councils is to provide programming and candidate benchmark progress oversight. The second purpose is for panels, assembled from experts in all facets of our stakeholder community, to provide insight to the university in order for the SOE to develop the best-equipped graduates for the area's employers."

Dr. Jill Hutcheson, associate dean of teacher education in the School of Education faculty, said the philosophy of the advisory board is to discover directly from potential employers how the school can best provide the graduates to address its needs.

"We want to prepare our graduates to meet the demands and expectations of their soon-to-be employers," said Hutcheson. "We base our reputation on providing quality graduates ready to work. Getting input from our stakeholders helps us keep current with trends and employment needs in our profession."

The meeting, which Hutcheson said she will be held annually, will begin with a larger discussion and will possibly break into smaller groups related to specific areas, depending on attendance. The goal of the meeting is to answer the following questions, per the members of the board:

"How are Lindenwood graduates doing when they enter the field?"

"What do you need from the Lindenwood School of Education?"

"What can Lindenwood do to prepare its graduates better to meet your needs?"

"Using the answers to these questions will help us inform our programming and deliver to our stake holders career-ready graduates," Hutcheson said.

