

## **Questions and Answers on the Rhode Island Department of Education Review of RIC's Educator Preparation Programs**

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) recently reviewed Rhode Island College's Educator Preparation Programs and indicated that significant improvements are needed in order to meet the needs of today's youth, schools, and communities. Following are some questions and answers about the review:

### **What programs were reviewed, and what were the outcomes?**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>Undergraduate Teacher Certification Programs</b>	
All Grades Education	Approved with Conditions
Early Childhood	Approved with Conditions
Elementary Education	Approved with Conditions
Middle Grades Education	Approved with Conditions
Secondary Grades Education	Approved with Conditions
Special Education	Approved with Conditions
<b>Graduate Administrator Certification Programs</b>	
Building Level Administrator	Non-Renewal
<b>Graduate Support Professional Certification Programs</b>	
Reading Specialist	Approved with Conditions
School Counselor	Non-Renewal
School Psychologist	Approved with Distinction

### **What do these findings mean?**

Programs approved with conditions will need to make improvements and submit an update to RIDE for continued renewal in the next three years. Programs that are not renewed have stopped accepting new students until such time as RIC submits a new application and RIDE approves the program for certification.

### **Will current students continue to be certified?**

**Yes.** All students currently in all of our programs, including those that were not renewed, will continue to be eligible for certification when they graduate.

### **Will incoming students receive certification?**

**Yes.** All students entering RIC's Educator Preparation Programs will be eligible for certification when they graduate. As noted above, programs not being renewed will not accept new students for the time being.

## **What is RIC doing about these findings?**

The College is taking immediate action to begin addressing these needs in its Educator Preparation Programs. RIC's short-term action steps include:

- The appointment of a change mentor to prioritize improvements, implement Action Plan, and coordinate with RIDE – **in progress**
- The establishment of an Advisory Council to include esteemed RIC School of Education alumni and other local and national experts to provide guidance on the transformation process– **in progress**
- Analysis of candidate assessment system and identification of areas that need to be redesigned – **Fall 2017**
- Increased proficiency in student standards and integration of more opportunities for candidates to deepen their understanding of standards-based instruction – **Fall 2017**
- Instruction in issues of equity included in all programs – **Fall 2017**
- Mutually beneficial partnerships with districts regarding placements, hiring needs, and essential practices – **Fall 2017**

## **What is the reason for these findings?**

Early-childhood, elementary, and secondary education is changing rapidly, and RIC, like many schools, needs to rethink its programs to meet those demands. RIDE has implemented a new program approval process for educator certification to hold the state's program to high standards and ensure continuous improvement in this changing environment.

RIC is the first school to be fully reviewed under this new process. We recognize RIDE's purpose in changing its process to account for new needs in the state, in our communities, and in our classrooms.