Overview

1.2 Summarize the professional education unit at your institution, its mission, and its relationship to other units at the institution that are involved in the preparation of professional educators [2,000 characters]

The mission statements of both Northwest Missouri State University and the Professional Education Unit reflect the NCATE principles of fairness and a belief that all students can learn as borne out by Northwest’s Mission: *Focusing on student success – every student, every day.*

The Professional Education Unit (PEU) is comprised of faculty from each of the colleges of Arts and Science, Business and Professional Studies, and Education and Human Services that teach professional education courses. The PEU offers 38 initial certification programs, 7 programs for other school professionals, 5 endorsement tracks, and 11 advanced no-licensure programs. The unit offers an alternate certification route in the areas of secondary, elementary/secondary, middle school, and cross categorical special education. A doctoral program in educational leadership is provided in cooperation with the University of Missouri-Columbia and three other Missouri institutions. Nearly half of the coursework for this degree is offered on the Northwest campus. The degree, however, is awarded through UM-C.

Dr. Joyce Piveral, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services serves as the leader of the PEU. Governance authority is vested in the Council on Teacher Education (COTE) (exhibit I.5.a.6 PEU Organizational Chart) which is comprised of PEU faculty from each of institution’s colleges, Pk-12 and teacher candidate representatives. COTE has responsibility for standardizing instruction in all initial and advanced teacher education programs, including approval of curriculum, compliance with teacher certification requirements, admission to and retention in teacher education and approval of teacher education student organizations. Proposals passed by COTE are reported – for challenge only – to the Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council and are then forwarded to the chief academic officer for submission to the President for Board of Regent consideration.