Overview

I.3 Summarize programs offered at initial and advanced preparation levels (including off-campus, distance learning, and alternate route programs), status of state approval, national recognition, and if applicable, findings of other national accreditation associations related to the preparation of education professionals [2,000 characters]

Undergraduate programs are delivered at Northwest’s main campus in Maryville, MO; many include on-line components through our eCollege course management system. Coursework for advanced programs is delivered in Maryville, Liberty and St. Joseph (MO) and follow a blended in-person and online format with two graduate level courses scheduled on the same night, each meeting five nights during the semester. Field experiences are incorporated into each course. The Alt. Cert. Program is designed for those who have accepted a teaching position but are not certified; candidates in this program complete special classes designed to meet one night per week for the first year.

Northwest has long been lauded in the field of education, having been a four-time recipient of the Missouri Quality Award recognizing performance excellence, and being honored with the prestigious Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education in 2006 (exhibit I.5.d.4 Christa McAuliffe Award). Northwest alumni have been also recognized for excellence – like Darryl Johnson as 2006-07 MO Teacher of the Year; Dwight Pierson as 2007 IA Superintendent of the Year; Christy Compton, 2006 American Star Teacher and Crystal Combs as 2012 new Business Teacher of the Year (exhibit I.5.d.3 Award Winners and 2012 Business Teacher of the Year).

Teacher education programs for initial or other school professional licensure at Northwest are approved by Missouri’s Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, however program reports are not available at this time as Missouri is in the process of implementing an entirely new program review system. Northwest is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and has been an Academic Quality Improvement Program institution since 2005 (exhibit I.5.d.2 AQIP Report). Northwest’s programs are accredited by the Missouri State Board of Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.