

March 8, 2024

Dear Dr. Bumgarner,

Based upon data included in the Annual Performance Reports for Educator Preparation Programs (APR-EPP), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recommended on March 5, 2024 that the State Board of Education accredit the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) at Westminster College. I am pleased to inform you that the State Board of Education accepted that recommendation and voted to authorize accreditation of your EPP for the 2024-25 academic year. This accreditation authorizes your institution to continue recommending candidates for educator certification during that period.

Since DESE's recommendation was based upon the APR-EPP, it should be noted that there were several changes this year in the score calculation process. Most significant was the decision to make a single recommendation for an entire EPP, instead of each individual certification programs (e.g., Elementary Education, School Counselor, Biology 9-12). We believe this brings the process into better alignment with the relevant rule (5 CSR 20-400.440). In addition, the scoring tables used to calculate EPP scores were revised. Should you notice a difference between this year's score and those from previous years, these changes are the likely reason.

Specific details regarding the manner in which APR-EPP scores were calculated may be found in the *2023 Comprehensive Guide to Educator Preparation Fall Data Submission and Annual Performance Report*, which can be found here: <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/2023-comprehensive-guide-apr-revised-january-2024>. While your institution has already received access to the data and scores related to the APR-EPP, a publicly available version can be found here: <https://dese.mo.gov/annual-performance-report-educator-preparation-programs>.

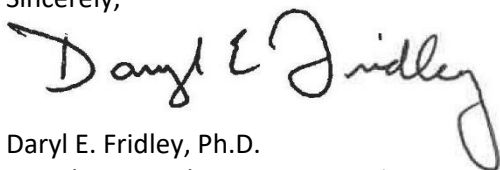
Annual accreditation is a noteworthy achievement and a testament to your institution's commitment to ensuring that children across Missouri and the Midwest have access to high-quality teachers, counselors, and school leaders. The work requires a significant investment of resources, as well as collaboration between numerous staff, faculty, administrators, students, and K-12 partners. The efforts put forth by you and your colleagues have not gone unrecognized.

Although the DESE's recommendation was based upon data from the APR-EPP, we recognize that those scores only tell a piece of the entire story. Mission, audience, and challenges differ for each institution. DESE acknowledges that many important contextual pieces are not reflected in the overall score of each program and discourages comparison between institutional scores since contexts differ so greatly.

Congratulations to you and everyone involved in this achievement. Thank you for your dedication and contribution to education in Missouri.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Daryl E. Fridley, Ph.D.
Coordinator, Educator Preparation