



Dean's Welcome Message

This welcomes each of you back to the College of Education (College) for the 2008-2009 academic year. I also extend a heartfelt greeting and welcome to those who recently joined the College. As Dean, one of my personal goals is to ensure that the year is one of the most prosperous and effective ones ever for all of us. Further, another personal goal is to ensure that the prosperity and effectiveness for each succeeding year surpass that of the previous year(s). I remain keenly aware that it will be impossible to reach personal or other goals without your assistance and enduring support.

Immediate and long-range academic and operational goals—explained in more detail in the next section—have been carefully crafted to reflect the College's vision to **"Prepare All Candidates to Succeed."** I look forward to serving our students and working with each of you in the most effective and efficient way possible.



Dr. Sylvia Gist

College Goals

As we embark upon the many changes that are occurring, or will occur, I ask that you be mindful of the fact that they are made to reach the following immediate and long-range goals for the College:

- Goal 1—Move toward National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) re-accreditation "with all deliberate speed."
- Goal 2—Prepare and submit all necessary reports to NCATE by spring 2010.
- Goal 3—Develop and implement a college-wide Retention and Recruitment Plan.
- Goal 4—Meet all requirements for NCATE re-accreditation for the College by spring 2011.
- Goal 5—Enhance local, state, national and international outreach endeavors by centralizing existing operations and placing new operations under a Community Out-Reach Education (CORE) Center. Existing operations such as certification, field placement, internship programs, research and development, and distance learning initiatives would operate from the CORE Center.
- Goal 6—Facilitate local and regional communication through a College-Wide Plan for On-Campus and Off-Campus Collaboration.
- Goal 7—Support the establishment/re-establishment of a Research and Development unit that promotes and supports research among faculty and students and focuses on urban schools.
- Goal 8—Accomplish greater efficiency and accountability by decentralizing technology efforts through the placement of similar functions under the auspices the Center for Integrating Technology into Education (CITE).
- Goal 9—Meet the needs of students more effectively and efficiently by expanding operations of and physical facilities for the Teacher's Writing and Resource Center (TWRC).

Activities to Accomplish Goals

To date, steps have been taken to address Goals 1 and 6:

Goal 1 is to Move toward National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Accreditation “with all deliberate speed.” Plans are being made to designate a full-time Assessment, Accountability and Data Coordinator for the College. This individual will oversee all assessment and NCATE related functions.

Goal 6 is to facilitate local and regional communication through a College-Wide Plan for On-Campus and Off-Campus Collaboration. In an effort to immediately assist the university in meeting its expectation that all units communicate effectively, I will periodically publish and distribute this *Dean's Update*. As in this document, each *Update* will comprise the following sections: (1) **Activities to Accomplish Goals** and (2) **Dean's Expectations**. In addition to a printed copy, each *Update* will be parked at a virtual location, so it can be accessed online when needed. The online location for the document is being finalized and will be communicated to you in the near future.

Dean's Expectations

To ensure that the entire college is on the same page, this section communicates some immediate operational and academic expectations for faculty, staff and students. The following are effective for fall 2008:

Operational Expectations:

- Offices are expected to maintain and post designated office hours.
- Faculty, staff and students are expected to refrain from aimlessly surfing the Internet and playing games on the computer.
- Students, faculty and staff are expected to consume food items at locations outside the COE computer labs.
- It is realized that there is no place in the COE building for faculty and staff to consume lunch. The Dean's office hopes to identify a place in the near future and will inform you accordingly. Meanwhile, faculty and staff are expected to consume food items away from office areas where customers (students and others) are received.
- The COE is a professional school that prepares education professionals. Therefore, faculty and staff are expected to model appropriate dispositions (including demeanor and dress) for students.

Academically-related Expectations:

- All students will be required to have access to *LiveText*. *LiveText* is a commercial, Web-based technology package that provides an electronic portfolio for candidates and assessment tools for managing the Performance Assessment System of teacher education. It supports assessment of local, state, and national standards. (*Note: This policy was adopted by the Dean's Council during the 2007-2008 Academic Year.*) Students who will complete their program before fall 2009 will not be required to purchase *LiveText*.
- All students are expected to complete and submit a portfolio before they complete the program. Faculty should evaluate and approve the portfolio prior to program completion. Students who complete their program in fall 2009 or thereafter are expected to submit an electronic portfolio.
- Syllabi for all “required courses” in each program should include *LiveText* among the books, materials, supplies and equipment that students are required to have for the class.
- Faculty who teach required courses are expected to have at least one assignment that students are required to upload to *LiveText*. This could be an *NCATE required assessment assignment* or another assignment of choice. (*Note: This policy was adopted by the Dean's Council at a 2008-2009 Dean's Executive Council meeting.*)

Finally, to realize our PACTS vision to “Prepare All Candidates to Succeed,” it is imperative that we always place **STUDENTS FIRST**; remember, our students are the reason we are here. I am confident that we will have a prosperous journey, and thanks in advance for your support.