

Blueprint for Quality Enhancement 2008-2009

College of Education

University of South Carolina

I. Vision, Mission and Goals

A. Executive Summary

Vision

The College of Education at the University of South Carolina will distinguish itself as a state and national leader in its efforts to be responsive, engaged, and collaborative in addressing the needs of its students, professions, and community. These characteristics will be the hallmarks of the College's teaching and learning activities, research mission, and service obligations, as it achieves excellence through focused involvement.

Mission Statement¹

The University of South Carolina College of Education is a dynamic, nurturing learning community that supports the growth of aspiring and practicing educators. The College, through purposeful interaction among faculty and students, emphasizes the active construction and application of knowledge, skills, and dispositions to promote educational excellence, equity and opportunity in the 21st century. We honor our responsibility to contribute to the high achievement of all learners and the development of an educated populace. Pursuant to this responsibility, we are committed to developing and sharing our expertise and leadership as well as offering a forum for educational dialogue and advancement. This commitment entails:

- Bridging the gap among theory, research and practice to promote excellence in teaching and learning within and across educational contexts;
- Conducting principled, free inquiry from diverse perspectives that promotes quantitative and qualitative scholarship to advance knowledge and educational practice;
- Partnering with government agencies; P-12 educators, schools, and districts; families; professional organizations; and other institutions of higher education; and
- Preparing educators to have a sincere understanding and appreciation of diversity as we challenge ourselves and others to work for social justice.

¹*Adopted 8/24/01 by vote of College of Education faculty and staff*

Executive Summary

The Professional Education Unit of USC, with the College of Education as its anchor, is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), with the latest accreditation renewal awarded on April 1, 2004. Each program in the College is approved by its professional association (in partnership with NCATE) or approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education or the South Carolina State Department of

Education. The College offers 4 undergraduate degree programs, 15 masters and education specialist degree programs, and 11 doctoral programs.

Operating from a total annual budget of approximately \$14 million, the College awarded 180 baccalaureate degrees, 232 masters degrees, 34 educational specialists degrees, 17 certificates, and 30 doctoral degrees. Students enrolled in over 22,000 undergraduate credit hours and approximately 27,000 graduate credit hours. The total enrollment in fall, 2007, was 2,044, which included over 1,000 undergraduate students. Faculty members from the four departments demonstrated their productivity in the form of 7 books, 14 book chapters, 66 refereed articles, and 227 paper presentations. The faculty also secured close to \$5 million in external funding to support research, teaching, and service endeavors. Another \$218,000 was received in funding and pledges as gifts from generous donors.

The members of the College have embraced seven five-year goals that address our mission and vision. These goals are to:

- 1) Monitor the quality of candidate performance to manage and improve all degree programs through systematic data collection and analysis, including both process and outcomes data.
- 2) Increase the accessibility of courses to meet student needs by using distance education and alternative scheduling.
- 3) Increase external funding to include \$10 million per year in grants and contracts and \$2 million in annual giving.
- 4) Identify two to three programs to promote to national recognition and develop and begin implementation of a strategic plan for achieving national ranking for those programs.
- 5) Develop and maintain a student and faculty population reflecting the ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of South Carolina and national composition of faculty within professional programs as well as ensure that all programs prepare professional educators for the diverse setting in which they will work.
- 6) Update the College public information infrastructure to ensure the communication of accurate and timely information regarding degree programs, research, and outreach initiatives.
- 7) Strengthen School-University Partnerships and the PDS Network to provide quality experiences for our students and greater collaboration and communication across the P-20 continuum.