**Advisory Notes: Child and Family Education and Education Teacher Preparation**

***Date: February 7, 2023***

***In attendance:*** *Kim Barker, Stephanie Peoples, Yadira Arellano, Kelli Fountain, Linda Brown, David Denning, Dennis Hosack, Laura Burton, Vicky Brown, Lori Robinson, Rebecca Fisk*

The following are a comprehensive set of recommendations for the enhancement and expansion of our Child and Family Education and Education Teacher Preparation programs. These suggestions, stemming from the diverse perspectives of our department and community, aim to elevate program quality, deepen community engagement, and prepare our students for success in the education field. Please consider the following ideas and proposed action items:

**Introductions Lead by Department Chair Kim Barker**

**Discussion Items and Action Items:**

**1. Resource Room Enhancement:**

a. **Creation of a Resource Room:**

As recommended by Department Chair Kim Barker, we propose establishing a dedicated Resource Room equipped with cutting-edge technology, including interactive advanced observation tools and educational software. This room will facilitate interactive and immersive teaching and learning experiences.

Proposed Action Item: Form a committee to plan and equip the Resource Room with necessary technology and educational resources.

b. **Peer Tutoring Program:**

Building on Stephanie Peoples' suggestion, we plan to implement a peer tutoring program within the Resource Room. Experienced students will be trained as peer tutors, offering academic support to their peers. This initiative aims to bolster students' academic growth and develop leadership and teaching skills among tutors.

Proposed Action Item: Develop a framework for the peer tutoring program, including training modules and schedules.

**2. Faculty Training:**

a. **Professional Development Workshops:**

Recognizing the importance of faculty development, we propose regular workshops, as suggested by Kim Barker and Kelli Fountain. These workshops will focus on innovative teaching methodologies, technology integration, and the latest trends in education. Faculty will be encouraged to attend conferences and seminars in their respective fields.

Proposed Action Item: Establish a faculty development committee to plan and organize regular workshops and identify relevant conferences.

b. **Cultural Competency Training:**

Acknowledging the diverse nature of our student body and the communities they will serve, we plan to incorporate cultural competency training for faculty, as advocated by Kim Barker. This training will prepare our educators to create inclusive and welcoming learning environments.

Proposed Action Item: Collaborate with diversity and inclusion experts to design and implement cultural competency training for faculty.

**3. Community Collaboration:**

a. **Partnerships with Local Schools:**

Linda Brown's recommendation emphasizes collaborative partnerships with local schools. Such partnerships will provide students with invaluable practical teaching experiences and opportunities for classroom observations.

Proposed Action Item: Establish a task force to identify potential partner schools and develop formal agreements for student placements.

b. **Parent-Teacher Collaboration:**

Linda Brown's suggestion resonates with our goals. We aim to develop a faculty- Mentor teacher collaboration platform, be it an app or website, to facilitate communication between AVC Faculty and Mentor teachers. This initiative aligns with our commitment to holistic education.

Proposed Action Item: Form a technology committee to design and launch the Faculty-Mentor teacher collaboration platform.

**4. Stephanie Peoples, Faculty:**

Stephanie Peoples, a dedicated faculty member, will lead the initiative to create a mentorship program. Education Teacher Preparation students will be paired with experienced alumni who have successfully transitioned into teaching careers. Stephanie will oversee this program, ensuring that students receive valuable insights and guidance to excel in their early teaching experiences.

Proposed Action Item: Appoint Stephanie Peoples as the mentorship program coordinator and establish guidelines for mentor-mentee pairings.

**5. Kelli Fountain, District ECE Director:**

Kelli Fountain, serving as the District Early Childhood Education (ECE) Director, agrees with Yadira Arellano’s focus on Apprenticeship Programs and underscores the importance of creating apprenticeship programs within the Child and Family Education and Education Teacher Preparation programs. These programs would provide students with practical, hands-on experience in real classroom settings, allowing them to apply their knowledge under the guidance of experienced educators.

Proposed Action Item: Establish an apprenticeship program committee, led by Yadira Arellano, to develop partnerships with local schools and oversee the implementation of apprenticeship opportunities.

**6. Linda Brown, ECE Coordinator:**

ECE Coordinator at Lancaster School District, will play a pivotal role in coordinating and the apprenticeship programs suggested by Yadira Arellano and Kelli Fountain. Linda's expertise will be instrumental in ensuring that students gain meaningful experiences in early childhood education settings.

Proposed Action Item: In collaboration with Lancaster School District, establish clear guidelines and standards for apprenticeship programs.

**7. Yadira Arellano, AVC faculty:**

Yadira Arellano, a dedicated faculty member in our Teacher Preparation program, suggests the development of apprenticeship programs. These programs would provide students with immersive, real-world teaching experiences, allowing them to apply classroom learning in actual educational settings. Under the mentorship of experienced educators, apprenticeships will help students bridge the gap between theory and practice and gain valuable insights into effective teaching strategies.

Proposed Action Item: Collaborate with local schools and educational institutions to create apprenticeship opportunities for our students, ensuring they receive structured and supportive experiences.

**8. Program Expansion:**

a. **Online Course Offerings:**

As proposed by Kim Barker, we recommend exploring the possibility of offering select courses online. This initiative aligns with our commitment to flexibility and accessibility for our students, allowing them to complete their coursework while gaining practical experience in educational settings.

Proposed Action Item: Convene an online education committee to evaluate the feasibility of online course offerings and develop a strategy for implementation.

**9. Student Workshops:**

a. **Career Development Workshops:**

Stephanie Peoples' suggestion inspires us to organize career development workshops. These workshops will focus on resume building, interview preparation, and navigating the teacher certification process. We aim to bring in guest speakers and alumni success stories to inspire and guide our students.

Proposed Action Item: Form a student workshop planning committee to design and schedule career development workshops.

b. **Workshops on Inclusive Education:**

Building on Etawnya Clifford's recommendation, we plan to offer workshops within the Resource Room, focusing on inclusive education. These workshops will equip students with strategies to address diverse learning needs and create inclusive classroom environments.

Proposed Action Item: Develop a curriculum for inclusive education workshops and schedule regular sessions.

**10. Interdisciplinary Collaborative Efforts:**

a. **Cross-disciplinary Seminars:**

Kim Barker’s proposal for cross-disciplinary seminars aligns with our vision. We will organize seminars that bring together students and faculty from various departments to explore topics that intersect with education, such as psychology, sociology, and child development.

Proposed Action Item: Establish a cross-disciplinary seminar committee to plan and coordinate these seminars.

b. **Research Collaborations:**

We intend to foster interdisciplinary research collaborations, as suggested by Kim Barker, allowing faculty and students to engage in research projects spanning multiple disciplines. This approach will broaden research opportunities and generate comprehensive insights into child and family education.

Proposed Action Item: Form research collaboration teams and identify potential interdisciplinary.

**Conclusion of meeting:**

These combined recommendations, representing a diverse range of perspectives from faculty, community members, and experts, will invigorate our programs. We encourage open discussions to further explore and implement these ideas and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

We appreciate the unwavering dedication to our programs and our students' success.