



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: John Petraitis, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Cc: Ginger Blackmon, Assistant Professor  
Agatha John-Shields, Term Assistant Professor

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** Educational Leadership MEd & Principal Graduate Certificate

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation and National Policy Board of Educational Leadership (Specialty Professional Association)

**Campuses where the program is delivered:** Anchorage

**Members of the program review committee:**

Ginger Blackmon, Assistant Professor  
Agatha John-Shields, Term Assistant Professor

### **Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role**

UAA's mission is to discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement and creative expression. UAA is committed to serving the higher education needs of the state, its communities and its diverse peoples. It is also committed to instruction at multiple academic levels, success of all students regardless of their higher education goals, and service to the diverse peoples and communities of the state. UAA's core themes are (1) Teaching and Learning, (2) Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, (3) Student Success, (4) UAA Community, and (5) Public Square. UAA values international and intercultural education, diversity of experiences and perspectives, and the diversity of our unique location in Southcentral Alaska that comes from the Alaska Native peoples of this area.

The College of Arts and Sciences CAS contributes to UAA's mission with a suite of programs that provide, among other things,

1. general education courses for undergraduates in CAS and other Colleges,
2. opportunities for undergraduates to pursue majors in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts, and

3. opportunities for faculty and students to pursue research and creative activities in CAS's academic disciplines,
4. graduate programs for advanced studies.

Given decreased enrollments across UAA and significant budget cuts to CAS, the challenge is to serve UAA's and CAS's missions with only 75% of the funds it had in 2018-2019. CAS's shrinking budget is especially challenging for programs that rely on state financial appropriations through CAS because the programs have a gap between (a) the total costs of everything the program does and needs, and (b) the tuition CAS receives to cover those costs. This describes most programs in CAS: most rely on state appropriates and CAS has 30% less than it had two years ago.

The School of Education's MEd and Graduate Certificate in Education Leadership contributes to CAS's and UAA's mission by preparing licensed educators to transition from teachers to school administrators. Filling Alaska's gaps for pre-K and K12 teaching positions is a priority for the University of Alaska and its Board of Regents. The gap extends to school administrators throughout Alaska. The program addresses that gap. The program is currently accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the National Policy Board of Educational Leadership. It is preparing for accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP.)

### **Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity**

Demand for this program is strong. In fact, in 2018 and 2019 MEd and Graduate Certificate served a combined average of 62 student per year, by far the highest number of graduate students in any of CAS's graduate programs. It does so with only 2-3 faculty and the tuition that CAS receives easily covers the instructional costs, making the program very efficient. Finally, it is also very productive, leading to 24 MEd and Graduate certificates in each of the past two years.

### **Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success**

The program is nationally accredited, attesting to the quality of the program's documentation, evidence, and outcomes. The program mixes face-to-face instruction, internship opportunities, and online instruction to serve students across Alaska.

### **Program Duplication / Distinctiveness**

UAS offers a masters degree (but not a graduate certificate) in Education Leadership. The programs have similarities but are also distinctive. Of note, UAA's program is available entirely online and includes an option for a graduate certificate.

### **Commendations and Recommendations**

The small core of faculty are commended for accreditation by the National Policy Board of Educational Leadership, and for the design and delivery of a program with remarkable demand and efficiency. The faculty also should be commended for the hard work they put into their expedited program review submission.

### **Decision**

#### **Continued Review**

There are many positive things about this program, but there are two significant challenges. First, it is housed in CAS which is faced with steeper budget cuts than any other college at UAA. Although this program covers its instructional costs with tuition, accredited education programs require considerable faculty and staff time, and therefore, financial assistance. Moreover, accredited education programs require considerable faculty and staff time, and therefore, financial assistance and expertise from a college office that is best found in a College of Education. Second, the uncertainty surrounding the administration of teacher preparation programs in the University of Alaska system makes it hard to

know about the administrative future of this program. Therefore, I recommend that this program be reviewed again in 2021 to see if CAS has enough state appropriations to retain the program and where the program will stand relative to the Alaska College of Education.