

Good Afternoon,

As we mentioned earlier in the semester instead of a face-to-face meeting this fall, Chad and I would send you a few items and questions we could use your help with as we continue to work to improve our UNI Educator Preparation Program. Below you will find 3 items. It would be great to have your feedback on these items prior to the start of 2nd semester here at UNI (Monday, January 9th).

We will then make plans to invite you to campus for a meeting this spring. It is our hope that as Schindler Education Center reopens in January that we will be able to have the meeting in the new building!

We hope you had a great first semester and have a wonderful break!

If you have any questions, please let us know.

J.D. and Chad

1. Mission/Vision/Belief Statements

This fall the Mission, Vision, and Belief Statements were updated for the UNI Educator Preparation Program. This document is attached. Please read through this document and let us know if you believe these items will help us guide our program in preparing our teacher candidates to be successful educators in the schools of Iowa.

2. Review 1st year teacher and administrator studies

During the 2015-2016 school year, a study was conducted on the perceptions of 1st year teachers (UNI grads), their instructional coaches, and their building administrators in regards to a number of areas that impact beginning teachers. Please read through the attached Executive Summary of the study and let us know your thoughts on the results. Please give us feedback on how we might address some of the issues in this summary.

3. Background Checks--Dispositions

Each semester we receive applications to our Teacher Education Program from students who have a noted offense on the Criminal Misconduct section of their Iowa Background Check. When this happens we make a decision if we will allow the student into our program or not. The main criteria is if the offense would impact the safety of the P-12 grade students, classroom teachers, school district, and community in which they are placed. By in large this is an easy process, however, occasionally, there are some situations that indicate that while the student would not be a harm to any of these groups during any of their field experience (one citation for public intoxication, for example), there is a question to whether the student would ever get an interview or actually hired based upon the offense. We would hate for a student to go through

their entire Teacher Education Program, graduate and then get their initial license only to find that they would never get an interview because of the past offense. To that end, we need your professional help. We are going to list some hypothetical examples of offenses that may show up on an Iowa Background Check. We would like you to respond to whether your school district would consider this person for an interview or not. Here are the scenarios:

- a. Operating While Under the Influence (OWI) First Offense (offense occurred anytime over the last 5 years)
- b. Operating a While Under the Influence (OWI) First Offense (November 2012) Second Offense (August, 2015)
- c. Theft 4th Degree (shoplifting), July 2015
- d. Possession of a Controlled Substance, Marijuana 1st Offense, September 2016
- e. Possession of a Controlled Substance First Offense 2011. Possession of a Controlled Substance 2nd Offense 2013.
- f. Supplying Alcohol to a Person Underage July 2015
- g. Domestic Abuse Assault
- h. Assault Causing Bodily Injury