

University of Nebraska at Kearney  
Educator Certification Office  
College of Education Building, C128  
Kearney, NE 68849  
308-865-8416

Dear Partners in Teaching:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the culminating experience for most of our UNK education students before they become certified educators. After years of schooling and hard work, they are taking that final step in preparing for the career they have chosen for themselves, a career that we all have a strong commitment to. UNK's teacher candidates are some of the most sought-after applicants in the state, and it is through the efforts of all concerned—students, cooperating teachers, and university supervisors—that we are able to turn out such successful teacher candidates each semester.

This "Student Teaching Handbook" is designed to be a resource for all parties involved in the student teaching experience. Sections devoted to each group involved try to list responsibilities and expectations, provide instruction in the required assessments and evaluation of those requirements, and answer questions that may arise during the semester. Some information may not be pertinent to every person; however, the handbook tries to provide guidance and support to each participant.

Our students are prepared to take on the role of teacher and all that task involves. Our cooperating teachers have demonstrated success as classroom teachers, and their ability to work with others will mean a great deal to the teacher candidates under their supervision. Our supervisors have spent years in classroom and administrative positions and are able to provide support and encouragement to both the students and teachers alike. Together, this student teaching experience can be of benefit to all concerned, including the PK-12 students in the classrooms.

Our thanks is extended to the school districts that host our teacher candidates and especially to the cooperating teachers and principals who give their time and share their talents to help prepare future teachers. It is UNK's intention to provide the opportunity for our students to work with professionals who share their skills, knowledge and professionalism which will prepare teacher candidates who know and demonstrate the content, pedagogical and professional knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to help all students learn and, thus, enhance the quality of education wherever they might be.

Sincerely,

Jill Clevenger  
Director of Field Experiences

University of Nebraska at Kearney  
College of Education Building, C117  
Kearney, NE 68849

Dear Colleagues:

It's my pleasure to offer my sincere thanks to all of you as partners with University of Nebraska Kearney's College of Education program in our shared mission of preparing excellent teachers. Since joining the College of Education at UNK, I have been impressed with the high quality and strong commitment to the field of education by our students, faculty, and PK-12 partners. I find it inspiring!

One of the most important ways we partner is through the student teaching experience. As we are all aware, this is the capstone of teacher education preparation. Your willingness to welcome our students into your K-12 classrooms and provide them the opportunity to participate "hands on" in the classroom better prepares them to teach all children. As you guide and offer constructive support and feedback to our students, a rich and meaningful experience is ensured. We appreciate all of the work you put into making the student teaching internship a positive experience for our students. You are Difference Makers!

On behalf of the College of Education, I extend thanks to all partner school participants for their efforts at each level of our teacher education program. Collaboration and communication among the teacher candidate, cooperating teacher, and university supervisor are integral to developing a mutually supportive team. Each person plays an integral role and contributes to the learning process of the others. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Blum, Director of Field Experiences, or myself. You are a valued member of this team and we look forward to another great semester!

Sincerely,

Mark Reid, Dean