

# CPR Report Submitted!

**Thank you for submitting a Comprehensive Program Review Report.** Below is the information you sent on July 07, 2006. *Please note* this is a *temporary* web page and *cannot* be bookmarked. You may wish to print this page for your records. You will also receive confirmation via email.

- 1           **Name:** Carl Wallman
- 2           **Title:** Associate VP for Academic Affairs
- 3    **Daytime phone:** 706-569-3121
- 4           **Email:** wallman\_carl@colstate.edu
- 5           **Institution:** Columbus State University
- 6    **Review Status:** Non-triggered Review
- 7    **Degree level:** Bachelors
- 8    **Degree acronym:** BSED
- 9    **Degree/Major:** BSEd in Early Childhood Education
- 10          **CIP Code:** 13121000
- 11          **College,  
School/Division:** College of Education
- 12          **Department:** Teacher Education
- 13          **CPR Plan  
followed:** Yes
- 14 **Future institutional  
plans for program:** Expand and enhance
- 15 **Supplemental file:** EC BSEd Exec-Sum.doc
- 16          **File Type:** MS Word
- 17          **CPR Web site:** [aa.colstate.edu/assess/cprtbl.htm](http://aa.colstate.edu/assess/cprtbl.htm)

## **Executive Summary for the B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education Program**

### **Major Findings of the Program's Quality and Productivity**

#### **Program Quality: Very Strong**

In February 2005, a continuing approval review of the College of Education was conducted by a Board of Examiners (BOE) consisting of representatives from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC). The 2000 NCATE Standards and the Georgia 2000 Standards were used to assess the unit and its programs. The BOE judged all standards to be met for the unit and for all initial and advanced programs. Overall, the B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education program is strong and prepares highly qualified teachers who are able to use their enhanced knowledge and expertise in their schools, districts, and state.

#### **Program Productivity: Very Strong**

Enrollment in the B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education program has increased by 57% since 2001 (from 300 students to 473 students), and ranks first in average enrollment among the four B.S.Ed. programs housed in the Department of Teacher Education. The average enrollment during the four-year period from 2001-2005 was 390 students. Most of the required courses are offered every term, and enrollment in required courses is high. This helps to contribute to the cost-effectiveness of the department. The program has a diverse group of majors (approximately 30% minority) from a range of age groups. The number of B.S.Ed. Early Childhood degrees conferred by CSU has grown over the past four years and is comparable to the number of degrees conferred by other USG state universities. The average number of degrees conferred by CSU from 2001-2005 was 45.5 per year. Graduates of the program are in high demand.

#### **List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality**

Though the program quality is very strong, we continue to look for ways to make improvements. Current initiatives include:

- aligning coursework with the new Georgia Performance Standards for Early Childhood in an effort to help prepare teachers to teach with the new standards,
- providing additional support for students as they enter the teaching profession through the STEADY program,
- connecting the content of early childhood courses to the P-5 curriculum, and
- completing the development of the Model Early Childhood Classroom in Jordan Hall to be used to model innovative teaching and materials (ongoing).

#### **List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity**

The Early Childhood Education Program Advisory Committee (PAC) will oversee the following efforts to improve the curriculum, courses, and resources offered to teachers.

- Align coursework with the new Georgia Performance Standards for Early Childhood (2005-2006). Work will be supported by a PRISM mini-grant.

- Consider ways to connect the content of early childhood courses to the P-5 curriculum (ongoing).
- Complete the development of a Model Early Childhood Classroom in Jordan Hall to be used to model innovative teaching and materials (ongoing).
- Continue to review and refine courses and the program block sequence (ongoing).
- Closely monitor program growth trends to enable appropriate planning for all aspects of the program including scheduling of courses and securing faculty positions.

### **Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU**

The B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education program at CSU is a viable one. As indicated by the evaluation of the NCATE/PSC Board of Examiners in February 2005, the quality of the program is very strong. All NCATE/PSC standards were judged to be met for all initial and advanced programs. In addition, program quality is enhanced by special opportunities available at CSU. Early Childhood Education majors have access to resources and professional development opportunities offered through the Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative (CRMC), Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCRRA), Center for Assessment and Reading Education (CARE), and the Center for Quality Teaching and Learning (CQTL).

The viability of the program is also ensured by the collaborative relationship that exists between the College of Education and P-12 teachers. Representatives from these groups work together to make improvements to the Early Childhood Education programs at CSU and to impact Early Childhood Education in our region. The B.S.Ed. program in Early Childhood is a valuable resource for elementary schools in our region. Students in the B.S.Ed. program take what they learn and apply it in P-5 classrooms to help their students learn.

Graduates of the B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education program are also a valuable resource for our students in the undergraduate program. A substantial number of program graduates teach in systems served by CSU, especially Muscogee County. Our programs in Early Childhood have helped to create a cadre of leaders within our Partner School Network. Graduates often serve CSU as pre-student teaching cooperating teachers and cooperating teachers for student teaching. They are an invaluable asset in assisting with the development of our undergraduates.

The number of degrees conferred in Early Childhood by CSU has grown over the past four years and is comparable to the number of degrees conferred by other USG state universities. With the growing need for highly-qualified teachers, the Early Childhood program at CSU is essential to preparing candidates to teach young children.

### **Program Improvement Plan**

In response to the findings of the Comprehensive Program Review, the faculty members and administrators of the B.S.Ed. in Early Childhood Education propose the strategies outlined below to improve the quality, productivity and viability of the program. These

strategies will be facilitated by the Early Childhood Education Program Advisory Committee (PAC).

<i>Departmental Plans and Priorities</i>	<i>CPR Indicator</i>	<i>Projected Timeline</i>
1. Connect the content of the Early Childhood courses to the P-5 curriculum	Quality	2006-Ongoing
2. Complete the development of the model Early Childhood classroom to be used to model innovative teaching and materials	Quality	2005-Ongoing
3. Review and refine the block sequence	Productivity Viability	2006-Ongoing
4. Monitor program enrollment trends to enable appropriate planning for all aspects of the program including scheduling of courses and securing faculty positions	Productivity Viability	2006-Ongoing

The resources needed to accomplish these priorities should be minimal. Departmental resources will be allocated as necessary to accomplish these plans. The Early Childhood Program Coordinator will be provided one course release time each academic year to provide leadership to these activities. The Department will contribute to the development of the model classroom by providing funds for supplies and materials. The Program Coordinator will communicate additional resource requests as needed to the appropriate administrator within the College of Education at Columbus State University.

**Recommendation:** *Enhance or Expand the Program*

The program quality is very strong, and the number of degrees conferred is growing. Enrollment has increased 57% since 2001. For the last two years, there has been a consistent increase of 12-13% each year. If the rate of growth continues in the B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education program, there will be a need for a comparable increase in faculty and resources to meet the needs of the increasing student population.

We will continue to work to improve the B.S.Ed. program in Early Childhood Education by responding to new initiatives (e.g., Georgia Performance Standards), improving the curriculum, providing support and resources for students, and intensifying recruitment efforts. By enhancing the quality of the program, we hope to continue attracting students to the Early Childhood Education program.