

**West Virginia State University Board of Governors Meeting**  
**June 23, 2011**

**ITEM:** New Content Specialization for the Bachelor of Science degree in Education

**ADMINISTRATIVE AREA:** Academic Affairs

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval to add a Content Specialization in Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) to the Bachelor of Science degree in Education

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. R. Charles Byers  
Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Robert L. Harrison, Jr.  
Dean of the College of Professional Studies

Dr. Sandra Orr  
Education Department Chairperson

**BACKGROUND:**

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC) Policy Series 11 - Submission of Proposals for New Academic Programs and the Discontinuance of Existing Programs - requires that all state-supported institutions submit an Intent to Plan when the institution is proposing a new teaching specialization. The proposed new content specialization in Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) for the Bachelor of Science degree in Education has the approval of all the appropriate University committees and administrators. Approval by the WVSU Board of Governors will permit submission of the Intent to Plan to the WVHEPC for their approval.

The proposed content specialization reinstates a teaching field that was transferred to West Virginia University when Agriculture Education along with Land-Grant status were transferred in 1954. A primary mission of a land-grant institution is to prepare agriculture education teachers. With the 1994 restoration of land-grant status to WV State, this content specialization is consistent with both the University Mission and the Land-Grant Mission. In addition, this program will provide access to candidates in Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) in the southern part of West Virginia who may be unable to go to West Virginia University.

**ATTACHMENT:**

The Intent to Plan document for the content specialization in Agriculture Education to be added to the Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

## WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Category of Action Required: Approval of the Intent to Plan.**

**Title of Degree or Certificate: The addition of a new Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) Content Specialization to the list of approved content specializations leading to a Bachelor of Science in Education at West Virginia State University.**

**Location: Institute, West Virginia**

**Effective Date of Proposed Action: July 2011-Approval of the Intent to Plan.**

**Brief Summary Statement:**

West Virginia State University is seeking to add a new content specialization in Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) to the list of approved content specializations leading to the Bachelor of Science in Education beginning in the 2013-2014 academic year. From 1891-1954, West Virginia State prepared agriculture education teachers for the segregated, public schools of the United States and West Virginia. In 1954, all land grant activities were transferred to West Virginia University, including Agriculture Education. In 1994, West Virginia State had its land grant status restored. A primary mission of a land grant institution is to prepare agriculture education teachers. Therefore, the addition of this new content specialization in Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) is consistent with the WVSU University Mission and the Land Grant Mission. Also, this program will provide access to candidates Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) in the southern part of West Virginia who may not be able to go to West Virginia University. The WVSU Board of Governors approved the Intent to Plan on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Tentative timelines have been established when the Intent to Plan is approved:**

- July 2011-April 2012 proposal development for eventual approval by the West Virginia State University Board of Governors in April 2012.
- Submission of the full proposal to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission for approval in July 2012.
- Once approved by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, seek approval from the West Virginia Board of Education in January 2013.
- Begin recruiting students for Fall Semester 2013 in the spring of 2013.

All faculty members, who will deliver the proposed program, are currently employed by the University. Only four classes will need to be taught by adjunct faculty members and delivered at a local public school vocational center.

## INTENT TO PLAN

### **WVHEPC -Series 11: Submission of Proposals for New Academic Programs and the Discontinuance of Existing Programs Required Format**

#### **Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult)**

#### **West Virginia State University**

**Projected Date of Submission of the full proposal-July 2012**

**Projected Date of Implementation-August 2013.**

**5.2.a. A statement describing the educational objectives, the relationship of the objectives to the mission of the institution, and any special features or conditions that make the institution a desirable or unique place to initiate such a program.**

The Institutional Mission of West Virginia State University (WVSU) is “To meet the higher educational and economic development needs of the state and region through innovative teaching and applied research.” The proposed restoration of Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) demonstrates the institution’s responsiveness to the needs of the service region of RESA III (Boone, Clay, Kanawha and Putnam local county school districts) and a request from the West Virginia Department of Education (see Appendix A-Letters of Support). Also, the proposed additional content specialization meets the College of Professional Studies Mission, “To prepare qualified professionals to serve and lead in a global society,” and the Education Department’s Mission, “To prepare teachers to be human developers who love to teach.” Furthermore, the proposed new program provides agriculture education in the southern part of West Virginia where, until now, students have had to go to West Virginia University in Morgantown to complete this content specialization. Therefore, the proposed content specialization will be more readily accessible and affordable.

All graduates of the teacher education program are assessed during the Pre-professional, Professional, Capstone and Extended Clinical, and Continuing Professional Development Phases of the program. Agriculture Education (Pre K-K) teacher education candidates will be also assessed by these following objectives or outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in the subject matter(s) of their chosen content specialization (specifically in this case Agriculture Education).
2. Demonstrate understanding of diverse learners, learning processes, and pedagogy by planning, teaching, and assessing lessons that are developmentally appropriate and address national and state standards (for Agriculture Education).
3. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in integration of technology as well as the twenty-first century learning tools and skills in their own teaching as well as the learning processes of their students.

4. Demonstrate the dispositions of a member of the teaching profession and exhibit behaviors congruent with the *Teacher as a Human Developer* conceptual framework.
5. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in creating and maintaining effective learning communities by promoting communication within the school and its community and by developing classroom management frameworks that facilitate respect for all students including their diverse abilities and talents.

When the final proposal for Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) is submitted to the WVSU Board of Governors and ultimately to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the document will contain unique assessment instruments for this proposed content specialization to align it with the other content specializations that are currently offered at the University through the Education Department.

**5.2.b. A brief description of the program.**

West Virginia State University has been preparing teachers since 1891. During that same time period, the institution prepared agriculture education teachers until its land grant status was shifted to West Virginia University in 1954. The proposed historic restoration of agriculture education will be a revised, new program that includes current best practices in Agriculture Education as defined in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 5100- Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs and West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Series 46-Standards for Subject-Area Content in Secondary Level Teacher Preparation Programs. For this Intent to Plan, a Curriculum Summary Sheet and Course Descriptions were developed and included in Appendices B and C. Both documents were developed by faculty and administrative members of the University and Land Grant Programs. Next, these documents were reviewed and approved by WVSU's Education Department, WVSU-Educational Personnel Advisory Committee (EPPAC) and the Faculty Senate Committee-Campus Wide Committee on Teacher Education.

**5.2.c. A statement describing how the institution will assure high quality standards for the program and maintain a continuing assessment of quality.**

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission requires all state supported teacher education programs to be accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). West Virginia State University underwent its reaccreditation visit in April 2007. When the team left the campus, all NCATE Standards were met. In summer of 2007, NCATE selected WVSU to host its annual Board of Examiners Program to train accreditation team members. In October 2007, the NCATE Unit Accrediting Board granted approval of the Teacher Education with all six standards met. As part of the NCATE process, all content specializations must be nationally recognized by the Specialized Professional Association (SPA) process or at the state level by the Curriculum Analysis Report (CAR). Currently all content specializations are recognized by either the SPA or CAR review process.

Once this Intent to Plan is approved by the WVSU Board of Governors and the Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, then the institution must develop the full proposal for eventual approval by the Board of Governors, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, and the West Virginia Board of Education. Course outcomes, syllabi and field experiences must demonstrate alignment with state standards, Educational Testing Service Standards for Agriculture Education and West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives and West Virginia Professional Teaching Standards. The initial development of the Curriculum Summary Sheet and Course Descriptions (See Appendices B, and C) were developed and incorporated these standards. During the next NCATE reaccreditation visits in 2015 and 2021, the agriculture education program will need to be reapproved as part of the reaccreditation process, thus assuring high quality standards.

**5.2.d. A statement listing other institutions in West Virginia that offer similar programs.**

West Virginia University (WVU) is the only other institution in West Virginia that offers a comparable program. However, the West Virginia University program prepares candidates for Agricultural and Extension Education where each candidate has the opportunity to choose one of two areas of emphasis – agriculture teacher education or extension, leadership, and communications. **The WVSU program will be limited to teacher preparation.**

In addition, since West Virginia State and West Virginia Universities are the only two land grant institutions in the state, the federal government tends to delegate unique outreach programs for research and extension purposes to avoid duplication of efforts. West Virginia State's unique outreach is urban agriculture (ornamental agriculture, sustainability, and backyard farming) and aqua-agriculture (fish farming, hydroponics, and conservation of resources). Therefore, although the two programs at WVSU and WVU will meet the same standards. **Each program will be unique and non-duplicative.**

**5.2.e. A statement on what societal, occupational, research, or public service needs will be met, as well as anticipated student demand for the program.**

Initial Letters of Support contained in Appendix A address the unique needs for this program. Labor Statistics are quoted in these letters to support the addition of the program. When the full proposal is developed, greater stakeholder input will be sought and provided.

**5.2.f. A statement on what additional resources will be needed to offer the program.**

In Appendix A-Letters of Support, Mr. Jason Hughes, the West Virginia Department of Education Coordinator of Agricultural Education, visited the campus and determined that the University had the necessary faculty, science labs and agriculture facilities to deliver most of the agriculture courses.

Agriculture 330-Agriculture and Mechanization and technology will need to be delivered in the initial implementation of the program at a local county high school because of the equipment demands of the course. As the program grows, the institution will need to look at ways of creating a laboratory on campus to offer this course.

No new faculty will need to be employed to deliver the majority of this program since these faculty members are already employed by either the University or University Land Grant Programs. However, four classes will need to be taught by teacher education clinical adjunct faculty. These people have been identified and are noted in Appendix D on Tentative Teaching Assignments.

**5.2.g. A statement describing the instructional delivery methodologies to be employed to deliver the program, i.e. on-site or by technology-based delivery.**

The teacher education program is a formation process that begins with Education 200-Foundations of Education and concludes with education 480-486-Student Teaching. Candidates take general education, content specialization and professional education courses to prepare them for their unique calling as teachers. There are 200 clock hours of field placements prior to student teaching and 600 clock hours of student teaching. Candidates must complete field placements and/or student teaching at all the programmatic levels that appear on their West Virginia Teaching License. Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Education with a content specialization in Agriculture Education (Pre K-Adult) will undergo the same formation process and be held to the same standards of teacher preparation.