

TO: Members of the Higher Education Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Mary Beth McNulty, Vermont Department of Education
Educator Preparation Consultant

ITEM FOR ACTION: Johnson State College Request for Visit Delay

ACTION:

The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators will vote to delay Johnson State College's visit date and extend its program approval for an additional year.

MOTION:

I, _____, move that the VSBPE grant Johnson State College's request for a visit delay and extend approval for its educator preparation programs for an additional year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Johnson State College is currently scheduled for a full ROPA review in the spring of 2012. They are requesting that the visit be delayed to the spring of 2013. The Higher Education Committee reviewed and approved substantive changes made to the special education program in March of 2011.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Mary Beth McNulty, ROPA Education Consultant



June 10, 2011

Janet Steward, Chair, VSBPE
c/o Mary Beth McNulty
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Chair Steward,

The Johnson State College Education Department has embarked on an ambitious redesign of teacher preparation programs inspired by an innovative vision that aims to include personal narrative, analysis, academic inquiry, and universal instruction. With the added benefit of new and energetic faculty members joining the department (FA10) and backed by a strong commitment to teacher education across the college, all have been busy reflecting on educational trends and devising a plan to prepare JSC graduates to address the educational needs of a changing Vermont. The JSC community takes pride in our heritage of teacher preparation and remains committed to this core aspect of our mission. I am writing to express my support for the department's vision, and to seek the VSBPE's support in advancing it.

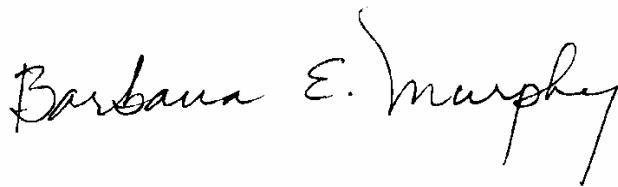
Over the past year, while sustaining the existing teacher preparation programs, the department has planned a new set of programs oriented toward *inclusive education*. During the 2011-2012 academic year, we will continue to operate the teacher education programs as currently accredited and seek appropriate internal and external approvals for the new programs to be implemented during the 2012-2013 academic year. We anticipate that the inclusive education programs may warrant review as new programs. We would propose hosting the ROPA team visit for this new program review during spring 2013, by which time the programs will be underway and will have generated at least a small data set.

Accordingly, the college wishes to request an extension of our accreditation status through spring 2013 and, thus, to forego the anticipated ROPA reaccreditation review of the existing programs, which would otherwise occur during spring 2012. This request — for a single review of the new programs in 2013 instead of reviews in consecutive years—would allow us, if granted, to concentrate resources and energies toward advancing the department's vision. It would also allow us to maintain the momentum of the significant reform efforts begun this year by members of the Education Department faculty. These collaborative efforts, to complete many of the foundational elements of the redesign, will help insure that the proposed, inclusive education programs are well grounded.

We remain fully committed to the students enrolled in our existing programs and the new students who will join us in years to come. Indeed, the Department has implemented a number of changes in the past two years to enhance the effectiveness of these programs and will add new features next year that will carry over to the inclusive education programs. Examples of innovation underway include a new field-based methods course based at our newly established PDS site, Lamoille Union High School, a new portfolio review process enhanced with an external Board of Reviewers consisting of professional educators throughout the state, and a revision of our graduate Special Education program. Students in all existing programs will continue to receive high quality learning experiences through 2012 and will then transition, as appropriate, to the inclusive education programs.

Thank you for considering this request, which we hope the VSBPE will find supportable. Members of the Education Department and JSC administration will attend the June 23rd VSBPE meeting to present additional details and answer questions. This is an exciting time to be involved in teacher preparation at Johnson State College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara E. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Barbara E. Murphy

C: Academic Dean Dan Regan, JSC
Professor David McGough, Department Chair, JSC