



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY
12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy *William P. Murphy*

SUBJECT: SUNY Empire State College: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Degree in Educational Leadership and Change

DATE: May 28, 2020

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Sharon L. Tabor*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for the State University of New York Empire State College to offer its first doctoral-level program in the Education discipline area, a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership and Change?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

The issue will come before the Full Board at its June 2020 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

The State University of New York (SUNY) submitted an application for a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree program in Educational Leadership and Change to be offered by SUNY Empire State College. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program represents the first doctoral level program in the Education discipline area at Empire State College.

Background Information

The purpose of the proposed program is to prepare mid-career practicing professionals to hold leadership positions in higher education settings. The College currently offers a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Adult Learning, which will serve as a feeder program for the new doctorate program. Consistent with its mission, Empire State College designed the professional doctorate specifically to provide "innovative, alternative, and flexible" programming to adult students across New York State. The College states that the proposed program is consistent with its strategic plan, addressing the institution's commitment to be an "innovative learning organization," and supports the "Open SUNY" goal of growth in quality online degree programs. The proposed program also reflects the strategic vision for Empire State College's School for Graduate Studies, as outlined in its 2015 Graduate Academic Plan, that sets objectives for enrollment growth in professional doctorates that allow students to more seamlessly move forward from its master's level programs.

An academic review of the proposed degree program has been completed by the Department. The Department has determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In addition, following the standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the Capital District region. Of those canvassed, there were no objections or statements of negative impact, should the program be registered.

Related Regents Item

N/A

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize State University of New York Empire State College to offer its first doctoral degree program in the discipline of Education. The amendment will be effective June 9, 2021, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the program and the institution will proceed to recruit and enroll students.