

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST TO MERGE DOCTOR OF EDUCATION PROGRAM IN LEISURE, YOUTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND DOCTOR OF EDUCATION PROGRAM IN REHABILITATION STUDIES AND NAME THE PROGRAM AS DOCTOR OF EDUCATION PROGRAM IN ALLIED HEALTH, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to merge the Doctor of Education Program in Leisure, Youth and Human Services and the Doctor of Education in Rehabilitation Studies and name the merged program as the Doctor of Education Program in Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services in the College of Education.

Executive Summary: The proposed name change will lead to an administrative reorganization and result in cost savings. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and effective.”

Background:

◇ Description of programs.

The **Doctor of Education Program in Leisure, Youth and Human Services** is designed to interpret and apply youth development models and concepts as well as nonprofit administrative practices to the planning, management, supervision and evaluation of informal education programs in the community. Graduates are prepared for careers as applied scholars, administrators of community nonprofit organizations, youth serving agencies, public parks and recreation, foundations, and government agencies.

The **Doctor of Education Program in Rehabilitation Studies** is designed to prepare Certified Athletic Trainers and/or other Allied Health professionals to plan, implement, evaluate, and supervise educational programs as well as develop a scholarly agenda. Graduates are prepared for careers as athletic training program directors, clinical coordinators, applied scholars, and practicing clinicians. The program focuses on a holistic approach of preparing students by including administration, education, and rehabilitation studies within the curriculum.

◇ Reason for proposed name change. An academic program assessment at the University recommended combining the two doctoral programs to achieve greater efficiencies, cost savings, and enhanced quality.

◇ Comparable name at other institutions. The proposed name is commonly used at peer institutions. While the specific names vary, they are all linked around allied health programs and programs in recreation and public or community services. Northern Arizona University, Central Michigan University, and Indiana State University are members of the Schools of Allied Health Professions. The University of Minnesota at Duluth has programs in Recreation/Outdoor Education, Community Health, and Health and Fitness in its Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

- ◇ Effect on program configuration. The proposed name change will likely result in a curriculum change, but it is not expected to have an impact on current students.
- ◇ Effect on students. Current students will not be affected by the name change because they will have the opportunity to complete the program that they began. The requirements for the Doctor of Education Program in Leisure, Youth and Human Services are not expected to change; students will be allowed to choose the new name without a change in their program requirements. The requirements for the Doctor of Education Program in Rehabilitation Studies will undergo a curriculum change, using the Leisure, Youth and Human Services curriculum as a foundation. However, current students will be allowed to graduate from the existing program and will not be affected by the new program configuration.
- ◇ Effect on resources. There are no associated costs anticipated for the merger and naming other than marginal costs to change the website and promotional materials. In fact, cost savings resulting from a more streamlined administration of the two programs are anticipated.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed merger and name change will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the University's 2012-2014 Catalog.