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January 24, 2024

Dr. Heather Bigard  
President  
Lake-Sumter State College  
9501 US HWY 441  
Leesburg, Florida 34788

Dear President Bigard:

This letter serves as official notification that the State Board of Education, at its January 17, 2024, meeting, approved Lake-Sumter State College's proposal for a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Elementary Education. For purposes of data reporting, the CIP code is 1101312021.

As you move forward with the implementation of this program, please keep Dr. Mike Sfropoulos informed of your college's progress, including your institutional accrediting agency or association approval status for this program, any requests for common prerequisite modification and the program implementation date. You or your staff may contact Dr. Sfropoulos via email at [Mike.Sfropoulos@fldoe.org](mailto:Mike.Sfropoulos@fldoe.org) or by phone at 850-245-9523. In addition, for the Education program, Dr. Sunny Chancy, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, will also be a resource along with her team as you prepare to seek state approval under section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, for the Educator Certification program.

Congratulations to you and your team on the addition of the BS in Elementary Education to Lake-Sumter State College's program offerings. Your work to continue to offer access to affordable high-demand workforce programs is very much appreciated. Please let us know how the Division of Florida Colleges can support you as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Kathryn S. Hebda

KSH/ms

Attachments

Cc: Ms. Karen Hogans, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Lake-Sumter State College  
Dr. Clifford Humphrey, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges

**KATHRYN S. HEBDA**  
**FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR**

Dr. Mike Sfiropoulos, Associate Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Action Item**

January 17, 2024

**SUBJECT:** New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Appropriate notification of intent was provided to the Board of Governors, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida and the Commission for Independent Education, as required in section 1007.33, Florida Statutes.

The proposed baccalaureate degree program will prepare graduates for careers as elementary educators in both public and private schools. Graduates will be ESOL and Reading endorsed and will be eligible to enter master's degree programs to further their educational and career opportunities.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 168 annual job openings in LSSC's service area. Currently, no institutions offer a similar degree program within LSSC's service area.

Letters of support were provided by Lake and Sumter County School Board Superintendents and by local high school and charter schools as well as by members of the Florida House of Representatives. There were no letters of objection or alternative proposals for the proposed degree program.

An extensive review of criteria was conducted for the proposal submitted, and written comments and recommendations were provided to the college. The final proposal is being submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration.

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**Documentation Included:** Lake-Sumter State College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (under separate cover)

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, President Heather Bigard, Lake-Sumter State College, and guests