



LEHMAN
COLLEGE



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Dear colleagues—

President Lemons and I are pleased to announce the recommendation for continued reaffirmation of accreditation of the School of Education (SOE) by the visiting team of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Accreditation. The School received a perfect score, meeting all of CAEP's five standards, with no stipulations and no areas for improvement (AFIs)! After a final review, the Accreditation Council will make a final decision and issue a formal letter of recognition in fall 2021.

I want to commend faculty, staff, and students in the School of Education for their tremendous contributions towards this significant and impressive accomplishment! In particular, I would like to acknowledge the collective and collaborative leadership of the following individuals who led this process during this challenging times: Executive-in-Charge and interim Associate dean, Serigne Gningue; former interim dean Gaoyin Qian, Academic Assessment Manager Ameeta Persaud, Department Chairs Nancy Dubetz (Early Childhood and Childhood Education), Wesley Pitts (Middle and High School Education), and Janet DeSimone (Counseling, Leadership, Literacy, and Special Education).

As everyone probably knows, accreditation is the primary means for assuring and improving quality in U.S. higher education. It is a rigorous, voluntary, and peer-review process designed to ensure the quality of academic programs, the meaning and integrity of degrees, resource alignment, transparency in data collection and reporting, and a commitment to the public good, among others. It is a process that involves three phases: 1) a self-study, informed by the mission of the institution and the standards of the accrediting agency, 2) the peer review process, which involves external review of the self-study and the campus visit (in this case a virtual visit because of the pandemic), and 3) the final phase, which involves judgment by the accrediting agency about whether standards were met and if accredited status should be awarded or be renewed. Our School of Education successfully met CAEP standards, with the next accreditation visit scheduled to occur in seven years. What a terrific way to cap the spring 2021 semester!

We are very grateful to the six-member visiting team led by Dr. Jerrie Brooks from Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas, for its re-affirmation of the quality of our work and of our role as a strong anchor institution serving the Bronx. Other members of the team included Katrina Myers (Klamath County School District, Klamath Falls, Oregon); Deborah Stoulig (University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg); Karen Verbeke (University of Maryland, Eastern Shore); Cornelia Paraskevas (Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon) and Carol Seilstad (Hawaii Department of Education).

The team visited the College virtually from Sunday, April 25 to Tuesday, April 27, and met with faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the School of Education, as well as with me and President Lemons. Please join me in congratulating the School for this impressive accomplishment!

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Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

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