

DATE: March 25, 2016

TO: Graduate College New Graduate Programs Committee

FROM: Kim Metcalf, Dean- College of Education *KKM*  
Danica G Hays, Executive Associate Dean- College of Education *Danica G Hays*

CC: Kendall Hartley, Associate Dean- Graduate College

RE: Dean Support for EPL Program

Committee:

We are writing with full support for the Educational Policy and Leadership (EPL) program proposal submitted by the Department of Educational Psychology and Higher Education (EPHE). The intention of the EPL program is to prepare educational leaders in administrative roles in K-12 settings; this preparation will involve a rigorous master's level curriculum that highlights evidenced-based instructional practices that are aligned with the *Nevada Educators Performance Framework (NEPF) Standards for Administrators*.

The EPL program is well aligned with the NSHE Master Plan charges institutions with establishing and sustaining active K-20 partnerships in Nevada. Further, the inception of the EPL program is congruent with the UNLV Core Theme 3 (Foster a Diverse Campus Population and Engagement with the Community)- as well as aligned with the UNLV Master Plan to build excellent and focused research and academic programs. Further, the College established five major goals to forging a path to Tier 1: (1) increase external dollars generated or research; (2) increase the number of PhD graduates; (3) increase external development dollars generated; (4) increase scholarly productivity; and (5) dramatically increase the production of new teachers. We view this program as especially helpful in addressing Goals 1, 3, 4, and 5. Given the predominant role of educational administrators in both shaping school climate and informing educational policy, there are multiple opportunities with this program to increase external funds, bring national attention to the faculty and the program, and support teacher retention and recruitment.

This specific program meets a critical leadership need in the Clark County School District (CCSD), as evidenced by the memo provided by CCSD Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky. There is a serious shortage of principals in CCSD, and there lacks a preparation program in southern Nevada- as the ULD program is phased out- to prepare principals under the *NEPF Standards*. Further, the eligible voting faculty of the College and Department faculty each supported the development of the EPL program unanimously. Thus, there is consensus regarding the need of the program.

The EPL program is well aligned with higher education goals at several levels, and it will help to address a critical community need. The initial full-time faculty who will be assigned to the EPL program bring a wealth of expertise to the program. As program enrollment grows to meet the needs of CCSD (i.e., new schools, retirements), the one challenge will be to add instructional capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of the EPL program proposal.