

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### University of Rio Grande Master of Education in Educational Leadership

#### RECOMMENDATION

University of Rio Grande meets the Chancellor's standards, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the proposed program. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2011, to coincide with the institution's next regional accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports, reviewed at the institution's expense, are to be submitted by December 31, 2009 and 2010. A follow-up review will be performed at the institution's expense, as part of the university's request for continued institutional authorization by the Chancellor, by December 31, 2011 to determine continued authorization of the program.

**Profile:** University of Rio Grande, located in Rio Grande, Ohio, was originally established in 1876 as Rio Grande College, a four-year independent institution. In 1974, Rio Grande Community College, a state-assisted two-year institution, was established on the campus of the college. Today, the two continue to uniquely serve students by providing two-year community college programs, four-year professional programs in the arts and sciences, and graduate programs.

**Accreditation/Authorization:** University of Rio Grande is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The university has been authorized by the Chancellor since January 1970.

**Program Information:** The mission of the proposed Master of Education in Educational Leadership program is to "provide a challenging environment in which candidates develop into educational leaders who are sensitive to Appalachian values." Students in the program must possess a valid teacher's license and two-years of teaching experience, and will be exposed to concepts such as learning theory, teaching models, curriculum, educational research and evaluation methods, education law, diversity in administrative practices, school finance and economics, and technology in leadership and learning. The thirty-six semester hour program, which leads to licensure of principals in grades PK-6 or 5-12, includes an internship, action research project, capstone portfolio, and oral exit examination.

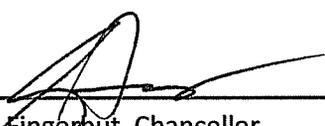
**Review Results:** The review team noted several strengths in the review, including the university's commitment to beginning the new program and developing a program that meets the needs of the region; the role of an advisory council to provide valuable information from stakeholders to the program; the focus on teaching and learning to build strong instructional leadership; and faculty participation in the admissions process, review of assessment data, and commitment to continued professional development.

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: continue to develop the proposed program's conceptual framework; continue development of a graduate structure at the university; develop differentiated criteria for graduate and undergraduate faculty; review the admissions criteria for the proposed program; ensure that faculty and students are familiar with the IRB process for research on human subjects; and review the institution's budget to adequately reflect the proposed program's needs.

The university responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed program, or, in the case of recommendations that could only be complied with over time, by presenting a clear plan for the implementation of the recommendations and a timeline for such.

**Recommendation to the Chancellor:** University of Rio Grande meets the Chancellor's standards, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the proposed program. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2011, to coincide with the institution's next regional accreditation reaffirmation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports, reviewed at the institution's expense, are to be submitted by December 31, 2009 and 2010. A follow-up review will be performed at the institution's expense, as part of the university's request for continued institutional authorization by the Chancellor, by December 31, 2011 to determine continued authorization of the program.

**End of Comment Period: June 1, 2009**  
**No Comments Received, Recommend Approval**

APPROVED:	
	6/26/09
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

mlc