

Dear Members of the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators:

On July 1, 2018 the formerly separate colleges of Johnson State College and Lyndon State College were combined to form Northern Vermont University. This new entity is one institute of higher education with two campuses. As the process of unification was ongoing, the administration and faculty of the university were not sure how or if to proceed with unifying individual academic departments across the campuses or leaving them separate. The decision was made in the summer of 2018 that the education departments should merge, and the licensure programs within them should also merge so that there would be one ROPA approval across Northern Vermont University rather than the existing, and very different, programs and approvals that currently exist in Johnson and Lyndon. This process, of working to create a program which meets the requirement for high-quality education set by the state of Vermont and yet which will meet the needs of a unique institution, will take time to perform successfully. Therefore, we request of the Standards Board for Professional Educators that Northern Vermont University be given a one-year extension for our ROPA review in order to present the best possible unified program for approval. Instead of having visits for Lyndon and Johnson separately in 2019, we are requesting a single visit and review for NVU in 2020 in order to present the best unified program possible.

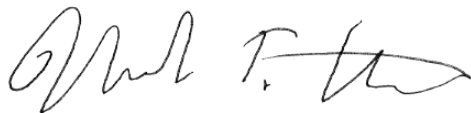
We will use this extension year to work out a plan for merging our programs and having one common ROPA approval in a way that benefits students and the institutions. We have, to

this point, received a mandate from the administration to merge the department and pursue one ROPA approval across the institution, using the current Johnson program as a basis for a combined curriculum. We have adjusted the leadership of the departments, with a faculty member at Johnson being both the chair of the Johnson department and a half-time chair of the Lyndon department specifically to coordinate the ROPA review and merger of the programs. There is a half-time chair on the Lyndon campus to handle day-to-day issues and student concerns. We have also had a cross-campus Education planning meeting to discuss the parameters of the program merger and the process for requesting this proposal.

We will use the year extension to continue this work. We will, if granted the extension, create a regular Education department meeting schedule across the campus to create and execute a merger and ROPA approval plan. We need to determine which programs will remain at both campuses and which may exist only on one of the Northern Vermont University campuses. We need to create teach-out plans for the existing programs at Lyndon which will be replaced with curriculum based on the Johnson program. We will discuss staffing, and how to adjust our staffing to best meet the needs of students at two campuses which are a significant physical distance apart. We will need to make plans to offer our courses in ways that will be efficacious for students while again taking advantage of the new university model. We also will have to consider the expertise which currently exists separately at each campus and how we can better use that human capital to enrich the education experience for the students across

the university. NVU will need to incorporate school counseling into our new framework and keep that program vibrant and on track with the standards. We will need to create an IP which reflects what both campuses have achieved separately in recent years and also showing a complete vision and plan for where we are going.

We at NVU are very confident in our ability to plan and implement a cutting-edge university education program. The year extension will allow us to put together a proposal and IP that will make it clear that the campuses in Johnson and Lyndon will be a resource for the students and teachers of Vermont for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,

Nolan Atkins, Provost

Northern Vermont University

Attachments: Progress towards current program goals

Addressing Revised Licensure and Endorsement Standards and Policies