

Contact: Patrice Bell-Mercadel (504) 520-5452 or Richard Tucker (504) 520-5425

Education Receives CAEP Accreditation for Teacher Prep Program

New Orleans LA - The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) has announced that Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) is one of 43 providers from 22 states and the District of Columbia which has received accreditation for their educator preparation programs.

The fall 2017 review by the CAEP <u>Accreditation Council</u> increased to 101 the total number of providers approved under the CAEP <u>teacher preparation standards</u>—rigorous, nationally recognized standards that were developed to ensure excellence in educator preparation programs.

"These institutions meet high standards so that their students receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate," said CAEP President Dr. Christopher A. Koch. "Seeking CAEP Accreditation is a significant commitment on the part of an educator preparation provider."

CAEP is the sole nationally recognized accrediting body for educator preparation. Accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement. CAEP was created by the consolidation of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. It is a unified accreditation system intent on raising the performance of all institutions focused on educator preparation. Currently, more than 800 educator preparation providers participate in the CAEP Accreditation system, including many previously accredited through former standards.

Educator preparation providers seeking accreditation must pass peer review on five standards, which are based on two principles:

- 1. Solid evidence that the provider's graduates are competent and caring educators, and
- 2. Solid evidence that the provider's educator staff have the capacity to create a culture of evidence and use it to maintain and enhance the quality of the professional programs they offer.

If a program fails to meet one of the five standards or required components under the standards, it is placed on probation for two years. Probation may be lifted in less than two years if a program provides evidence that it meets the standard. Providers, seeking first time accreditation, that do not meet one or more of the standards are denied accreditation.

Xavier's Division of Education and Counseling offers programs that lead to undergraduate degrees in education, a Master of Arts, and an Ed. D. in Educational Leadership.

"Our students and instructors should be very proud of the work they are doing. We've set a very high bar for our teacher prep program and CAEP Accreditation validates the hard work we are doing," said Dr.

Renee Akbar, Chair & Associate Professor of Xavier University's Division of Education and Counseling. "Our students and their families are investing in an education program that is designated as nationally accredited for teacher preparation."

Xavier joins 42 other providers to receive CAEP Accreditation in fall 2017. They join the 34 providers previously accredited. Overall, 101 preparation providers from 33 states and the District of Columbia have received CAEP Accreditation.

The CAEP class of fall 2017 is listed below.

Angelo State University (TX) Avila University (MO) Baker University (KS) Bard College (NY) Christopher Newport University (VA) College of Staten Island/CUNY (NY) Dallas Baptist University (TX) Fort Hays State University (KS) Franciscan University of Steubenville (OH) Friends University (KS) Harris-Stowe State University (MO) Howard University (DC) Indiana University - Bloomington Louisiana State University in Shreveport Lyon College (AR) Malone University (OH) Montana State University-Billings (MT) Niagara University (NY) Northern Arizona University Northern Michigan University Ouachita Baptist University (AR) Roosevelt University (IL)

Southeastern Oklahoma State University Southern Adventist University (TN) Southern University and A&M College (LA) Tennessee State University The University of Vermont Thomas More College (KY) University of Arkansas - Fort Smith (AR) University of Charleston (WV) University of Denver (CO) University of Detroit Mercy (MI) University of Florida University of Holy Cross (LA) University of Louisiana at Lafayette University of North Texas University of Saint Francis (IN) Vanderbilt University (TN) Washington and Lee University (VA) Wayne State College (NE) Wayne State University (MI) Xavier University of Louisiana Youngstown State University (OH)

About Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (<u>www.CAEPnet.org</u>) advances excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.

About Xavier University of Louisiana

XULA students *Leave Ready* to serve, care, and lead their communities. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at <u>www.xula.edu</u> or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. Take a moment to learn more about how Xavier is preparing students for the future at <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD4mb-jYZC8</u>.

Once again, Xavier University of Louisiana received national accolades as one of the best universities in the country. Most notably, XULA is ranked as the best value among southern regional colleges and universities in the 2018 edition of "Best Colleges" by the U.S. News Media Group. Xavier also ranked

No.1 in its grouping, heading the list of only 15 schools that qualified for the Southern Region category listed under "Great Schools, Great Prices."

To book interviews about our recent accomplishments and or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the arts, contact Patrice Bell Mercadel, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at 504-520-5452 or via email at pbellmer@xula.edu.

#