Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 26, 2023

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Board Meeting

January 26, 2023

# ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES,

# COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies, College of Public Affairs and Education

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Education to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies (BAES).

The proposed BAES is a non-licensure education program designed for students who seek to work with children and youth in educational settings outside of the traditional K through 12 public school classroom. The 120-hour BAES program pairs an interdisciplinary foundation of general education courses with an educational studies core that explores learning theory, educational psychology, child development, educating special populations, inclusive learning, curriculum design, designing online learning environments, and best practices in education. In addition to enrolling in education foundation courses, students in the BAES will also choose courses from six core applied learning areas: Communication, Behavioral Science, Analytics, Science and Systems, Technology, and Special Interest.

BAES graduates will be prepared to teach in private schools; after-school programs; as paraprofessionals in K through 12 schools; and to work in other fields such as child advocacy programs, policy making, government, health care, business, and non-profit organizations. The program will also provide students with the broad set of knowledge and skills necessary to develop, deliver, and evaluate training and development programs across workplace settings, such as in early childhood facilities; business and industry; two-year, post-secondary schools; or community and government agencies.

The BAES will utilize existing courses in innovative ways to give students more options, including a late “off-ramp” option from a teaching degree. The BAES will serve two groups of students: students on the teaching licensure track who want to switch to a non-licensure degree, and students who elect to start a degree on a non-licensure track. The proposed BAES will aid in student completion by providing an attractive alternative to students who choose not to, or are unable to, complete a licensure degree. The program will be delivered in a blended format with most courses offered online, making it a convenient option for traditional and non-traditional students in Central Illinois and beyond.

With convenient course delivery and numerous career and job opportunities available in non-teaching educational environments, the BAES is expected to be an attractive option for students seeking a non-licensure education degree.

Because the program was designed to capitalize on existing resources, no additional funding is required or requested to establish the program.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation.

The President of the University of Illinois System recommends approval.

This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.