

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION  
ACTION REQUEST

Subject: School of Education, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Action Requested: Renaming the School of Education as the College of Education, Health, and Human Services

Effective Date: September 1, 2013

The School of Education (SOE) on the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is exploring next steps in its evolution. Beyond an increased focus in high growth areas such as special education and educational technology, SOE has also become increasingly involved in health education. The school now boasts several significant partnerships with Oakwood Hospital and Healthcare System. SOE faculty members have embraced collaboration with the healthcare industry in both their teaching and research. Faculty members from the school's Early Childhood Education Center have been deeply engaged in research projects with clinical professionals from Oakwood Hospital's Center for Exceptional Families. More recently, the university and Oakwood jointly funded a research scientist position focused on children with special needs.

Developing health-oriented degree programs is a long-standing need for the Dearborn campus. One-third of our entering students indicate an interest in health professions, yet we are currently only able to offer necessary pre-professional health courses and a single health-related major in health policy studies. The university needs to develop a suite of health programs and a "health identity" in the higher education marketplace in southeast Michigan to provide an avenue of future enrollment growth for the campus and to expand grant-writing opportunities for our faculty.

In response to this need, in the fall of 2011, the provost formed a task force comprised of faculty representing every academic unit on campus and charged the group with making recommendations for health programs. This task force undertook extensive market research, including studies from Hanover Research Group, on current and future demand for skills in the healthcare sector. It has recommended ten potential health-related programs that draw on expertise and courses across the sciences, education, engineering, humanities, and business. These programs can be developed into a strong new population of undergraduate and graduate students on the Dearborn campus.

For reasons solidly grounded in careful analysis of our students' current and future educational needs, and in recognition of a shared focus on human and community development and well-being, the task force also recommended that the current School of Education be reconfigured into a new unit: the College of Education, Health, and Human Services. Current education programs would be encompassed within a Department of Education in the reconfigured college and the newly-proposed health programs would form the core of a new Department of Community and

Public Health. A third department, a Department of Social Work, would be added to the college in a programmatic partnership with UM-Flint.

The proposed name change and change of scope have been vetted on campus and were endorsed by the faculty of the SOE at their October retreat. The Council of Deans and the Senior Officers at the University of Michigan-Dearborn have also expressed their support for the changes. Upon approval of this recommendation, all necessary modifications to the Regents Bylaws to reflect this decision will be introduced for subsequent review and approval.

Recommended by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Little", written in black ink.

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Daniel Little, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

December 2012