

## **Program Planning Summary for the Proposal to Add a Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education at The Citadel**

**Proposed Date of Implementation:** Spring 2009

### **Introduction**

The Citadel's School of Education is pleased to submit a Program Planning summary for a new program: A Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education. We submit this planning summary following a very successful state and NCATE focus visit ( September 30-October 2, 2007), and with the understanding that consideration of this proposed program is contingent upon a full accreditation ruling by NCATE's Unit Accreditation Board in April 2008.

### **Justification of Need for the Proposed Program:**

The School of Education at The Citadel recognizes that a critical need exists in South Carolina for well-prepared middle level teachers. Because of the state's transition to more specialized training for middle level teachers and to the reconfiguration of 7-12 certification effective July 1, 2008, The Citadel proposes to add a Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education (5-8). Our intent is to develop a middle level undergraduate program with cadets choosing two areas of emphasis among the content fields of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Our goal is to provide cadets with the preparation necessary for teaching in these critical need areas at the middle school level. In addition, such a program at The Citadel has the potential of recruiting more positive male role models into the education profession and placing them into middle school classrooms. As noted above, The Citadel is submitting this planning summary request contingent upon full NCATE approval by the Unit Accreditation Board in April 2008.

The Citadel's mission of preparing principled leaders through a disciplined, cadet lifestyle and a rigorous academic experience makes us uniquely qualified to prepare teachers as principled educational leaders for the middle and high schools. Having just experienced a very successful NCATE Board of Visitors review and visit, our goal is to renew our commitment to preparing cadets as high school teachers and to initiate a middle level preparation program for cadets. An analysis of survey data of recent cadet graduates indicates secondary education majors previously requested a middle level internship placement and many of these sought employment as middle school teachers upon achieving a 7 to 12 grade secondary certification.

Analysis of the standards of the National Middle School Association (NMSA) and the current South Carolina Educator Certification Manual (revised January 2007) suggests that The Citadel's current undergraduate program has the potential to provide a strong basis for middle level preparation. In terms of content, the existing strong core curriculum coupled with selected upper

division requirements already available to students should provide excellent content preparation. In terms of pedagogy, minor revisions will be required in the middle level portion of the current secondary teacher preparation sequence. The proposed program will be developed in collaboration with The Citadel Arts and Sciences faculty and exemplary middle level teachers and administrators. This collaborative process will include a dual advising system like the one that is currently in place in our undergraduate and graduate Teacher Preparation programs.

## **Anticipated Demand**

A survey of current teacher education students suggests that this program will be appealing to cadets. We estimate that adding this middle level option for cadets will increase the undergraduate enrollment from the current five year average of 79 to an average of 90. Several current secondary social studies education majors have expressed interest in adding a second content field (Mathematics, Science, or English) and seeking middle level certification if the program is available in time. Data (both formal and anecdotal) suggest that a middle level teacher preparation program is attractive to current and future cadets. The School of Education intends to develop a comprehensive recruiting program for current and proposed cadet teacher preparation programs. Our goal is to increase our cadet teacher preparation enrollment and to expand our contribution to meeting in meeting the critical shortage of well-prepared teachers at both the middle and high school level in South Carolina. This proposed middle school teacher preparation proposal is part of The Citadel's more comprehensive initiative of enhancing the educational opportunities for the region and state. As part of this initiative, The Citadel is committed to establishing a **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)** Educational Center to better serve our P-12 colleagues. As a collaborative effort among The Citadel's Schools of Education, Engineering, Science and Mathematics, this STEM Educational Center is intended to increase interest and knowledge of the STEM disciplines at all levels of the educational process (P-16)

## **Duplication**

The sole audience for this proposed teacher preparation program at the middle school level is selected members of the South Carolina Corp of Cadets at The Citadel. Due to the unique nature of The Citadel's military and educational environment, this proposed undergraduate middle level teacher preparation program does not duplicate or compete with the College of Charleston's approved middle level program offered or with those offered at any other institution in the state or region. As you know, The Citadel is collaborating with the College of Charleston in developing a Master of Arts in Teaching in Middle Level Education. Our participation as equal partners in this master's level initiative is contingent upon a full accreditation ruling by the NCATE Unit Accreditation Board in April, 2008

## Costs

Since many of the courses required for this proposed cadet program in middle level teacher preparation are offered as part of other degree programs, implementation of this program should incur few additional costs. If enrollments increase as anticipated, additional clinical faculty will be needed. The cost of such additional faculty should be offset by the additional revenue generated by increased enrollment.

## Summary

The School of Education at The Citadel seeks to add a Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education emphasizing the content fields of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. We submit this planning summary for such a proposed new degree in direct response to the critical need for highly qualified middle level educators in the State of South Carolina. It is our intent to prepare middle level teachers with the knowledge, performance skills, and dispositions to meet the unique needs of young adolescents in the content fields of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. To do this, the faculty of The Citadel School of Education is committed to developing a research based middle level program that meets the 7 standards identified by the National Middle School Association (NMSA).

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Date

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Tony W. Johnson , Ph.D.  
Dean of the School of Education at The Citadel

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Date

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Lieutenant General John W. Rosa (USAF, ret.)  
President, The Citadel