MISSION:

The mission of the School of Education (SOE) is to offer high quality preparation programs leading to educational licensure and careers in professional education. Education faculty members also deliver preparation programs for careers in Recreation and Rehabilitation Services. Students participating in programs housed within the SOE have multiple opportunities to study in a multi-ethnic and diverse university setting. Faculty members of the SOE fulfill its mission through teaching, research, and public service to the Delta Region, the state of Arkansas and the nation.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED JANUARY 24, 2020
Dr. Wanda Y. Newell, Interim Dean
DESTINATION 2040

Becoming a destination university by 2040 requires certainty; certainty in process and operation, certainty in productivity, and certainty in results.

Our students must be certain about the quality of education they are receiving. We must be certain that our students are able to meet employment qualifications. Employers must be certain that our graduates will be effective in their new employment

For the next five years, the School of Education will move toward certainty by exercising the following strategies.

2019 -2020: Analyze CAEP data and make appropriate changes for improvement;

2020-2021: Prepare for Curriculum Enhancement and Redesign;

2021-2022: Commence Student Leadership and Career Development;

2022 2023: Create a Student and Faculty Academic Exchange Program; and

2023 -2024: Provide High-Tech Remote Teaching and Learning opportunities.
Telling our Story through Program Development

One proven and effective method of telling one's story is through program development. Having effective and successful programs draw the attention of educational stakeholders and funders. They also serve as recruitment and retention tools. Successful programming leads to faculty and student research opportunities and publications.

Potential Program Opportunities Include:

- **Certificate Programs** that are associated with education academic degree programs;
- **Education Alumni Career Network Programs** allow students to move toward professionalism by connecting with alumni in their career field;
- **Student Monthly Mandatory Leadership Meetings** help students move toward professionalism and the development of appropriate dispositions;
- **International and Domestic Study Trips** provide students, faculty, staff and alumni the opportunity for continuous and experiential learning;
- **University Partnership and Academic Exchange** enhances partnerships that allow students to study and faculty to teach for a period of time at another university’s School of Education Program.

Message from the Interim Dean

Wanda Y. Newell, Ph.D.

Many years ago, I read the book, “Cathedral Within” by Bill Shores. I learned that it took more than 300 years to complete a cathedral. Imagine building something that you will never see in your lifetime.

There must have been hundreds of stone cutters who were a part of the creative, building force. I often wondered, how did the cathedral builders stay motivated? Perhaps it was simply that they wanted to build something that would endure for many years to come and be meaningful for mankind. We are much like the Cathedral builders. The School of Education is building futures that we may or may not see but we keenly understand that a quality education is priceless and knowledge is power.

The next decade is our opportunity to set in motion, the School of Education movement towards greatness. It is our defining period. Let’s get ready to roll and roar!
Road to Greatness

The road to greatest is not linear. It is often bumpy but it can be easily navigated provided we are intentional in our practice and exercise harmony.

“Harmony is the collective power of people, process and productivity.”

People

When coworkers value and respect each person’s contribution, the seed is planted for greatness!

Process

When coworkers adhere to policies and procedures that enables innovation and challenges those that hinder progress; greatness sprouts!

Productivity

When coworkers overcome excuses and obstacles to become fruitful, helpful, and constructive, greatness is inevitable!

Where Do We Start?

There are a few things that we can do immediately to move toward greatness:

We can begin by being proactive, reaching out to our colleagues, students, alumni, community partners and educational stakeholders;

We can update our website and marketing materials to make them more appealing and relevant;

We can make data-driven decisions;

We can heighten our recruitment efforts and celebrate the accomplishment of our students;

We can make student advisement a priority rather than a duty; and

We can enhance our curriculum and support it by updating technology and making way for smart classrooms.