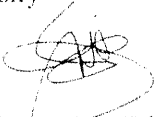




NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

100 College Boulevard • Niceville, FL 32578-1295 • (850) 678-5111 • www.nwfstatecollege.edu

January 29, 2009

TO: Dr. Judith Bilsky
FROM: Dr. Jill White 
RE: Restructure of Teacher Education Programs at Northwest Florida State College

At its January 20, 2009 meeting, the Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) Board of Trustees approved a request to restructure the college's Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Math/Science Teacher Education. (See attachment.) The Florida State Board of Education originally approved this degree program in February 2007, with a plan of study which allowed students to focus their coursework in either math or science, while still meeting the subject area requirements for both math and science. NWFSC enrolled the first students in the fall of 2008.

After consultation with both Florida Department of Education staff and our currently enrolled students, we have determined that separate degree programs will better meet student and community needs. Reorganizing the original program into two degrees requires essentially no change in coursework, staffing, facilities, or other resources; students will simply choose between two degree programs rather than choose between two paths within a single degree program. Instead of completing certification examinations in both science and math to meet graduation requirements, students will need to demonstrate subject area competence in *either* math or science, not both – a change we believe will encourage more students to pursue a teacher education curriculum.

However, the restructuring does mean a technical change, as the college would now be offering different baccalaureate degrees than originally approved by the State Board. Accordingly, the college is requesting approval to offer a revised set of teacher education degree programs which would include the Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Math Teacher Education and the Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Science Teacher Education. Initial enrollment in the programs would begin fall 2009. Students in the existing combined middle grades math/science curriculum will be allowed the choice of completing the existing program or switching to one of the separate programs.

Thank you for your assistance with this request; please let me know if you need additional information to pursue review by the State Board of Education.