

Session 2 – Panel: Extant and Emerging Alternative Licensure Programs in Iowa Regent Universities, Simpson, Maharishi
Facilitator: Merrie Schroeder, UNI
Note Taker: Robin White, Grand View
Location: Rasmussen 212

NOTES:

Welcome, this is a session on non-traditional teacher prep (alternative), using non-traditional programs as contrasted with more traditional programs. (Intent of session to be very informal.)

Tyler Lorensen (IMSEP student staff) just sent out survey to determine if STEM folks might be interested in non-traditional programs.

Merrie Schroeder is coordinating a collaborative of Regents universities (ISU, UNI, UI) to share resources, faculty, etc. UI offering the technical end; RISE at ISU has powerful assessment program that will provide needed evaluative data; UNI contributing the leadership in developing the state approval documents, coordinating leadership, writing of courses and instruction, etc. Recognize the need to recreate what schools need, but still meet Chapter 77 standards for traditional programs.

There are alternative programs in Iowa. They are post baccalaureate, all under Chapter 79. The intern program is under Chapter 77, but they are only for secondary (7-12) licensure.

Other programs:

- Kaplan: Since 2005--totally on-line.
- Maharishi: (day time, Master's degree, localized, many international students coming to Fairfield, has a distance component, combining methods work on line with practicum in field) starts in spring.
- Morningside: starting September (150 miles, undergrad program but have to have BA, weekends, evenings)
- Two more programs expected--Simpson (geographic) and Regents (hybrid model, statewide, PM/weekends so candidates can keep their day jobs, 7-12, not limited to shortage areas, if they can find an internship then they are welcome to apply for the program)

From one program to four more programs, TQE grant sponsored some planning funds. State is planning to rewrite Chapter 77 to make it more closely aligned with Chapter 79. This will involve feedback from the institutions planning programs.

Students will find the placement for internship, rather than the institution.

Tyler shared survey results that 1. Maintaining a job and 2. placement were the two most important considerations in being interested in internship programs. He will provide report of the survey.

Any interest in math and science alternative licensure?

Yes - Math, Science, Physics, Bio, Chem. Thirty-Eight people have indicated an interest in the Regents program.

Regents program requirements:

- Have BA mostly in field
- Three years experience
- Institution determines criteria for admission in program
- Many people interested in the Regents program already hold MA's or, in a few cases, PhD.
- Also have MDs interested.
- Interested people are sent documents to read about program that go into more detail about the requirements.
- They are still interested enough to go through the extensive admission requirements.
- ISU has had a handful of requests from MS who want to teach at HS in math. Want the math courses, hard to find the courses, most during the day. Upper Iowa is offering courses at night across the State.
- All are initial endorsements.
- Many have content courses completed, but need the methods and professional core;
- Wouldn't do student teaching, but have an internship fully paid as a salaried teacher
- 50-60 hours of field experience prior to internship (traditional program requires 80), so this may be increased.
- Student will need to take vacation days/time off to do the field experience (3 full days at Regents for first course in the fall first semester; 2nd semester = 28 hours however they want in concert with course requirements; May term 8 hours however they can meet course requirements).
- After seeing this in the info that they receive, potential applicants respond that they still want to do it.
- Many nontraditional programs across the country lack the field experience component.

Have to do hours before the internship?

- The way it is currently written, 12 hours up front, 4 during internship, 12 hours after.
- Regents' provosts wanted them to cut back, so it has been approved by the DE to have 18 hours prior to the internship and 6 hours during the internship for a total of 24 credit hours rather than 28.
- Adobe and face-to-face delivery system.
- During internship they are also involved in the mentorship program, learning new topics and going deeper into previously learned objectives.
- 3 year pilot for the Regents...why? Know things will go wrong and will have issues to iron out, but concerned mostly about the internship year.
- Will that model work in Iowa? It does work fine in New York, Chicago, etc. where there are many vacancies and many applicants.

Kaplan has done a lot of groundwork for the other programs. Worked a lot with superintendents (is do-able, but putting out a person without student teaching requires very close supervision even with a mentor).

Who will be included?

- Probably cap Regents at 24...anticipated only 8 for the first year during the Regents approval process.
- Very strong selection process may reduce numbers.
- Selecting the right candidates reduces attrition.
- Also depends on number of internships available.
- Physics spots shouldn't be a problem.
- Interview the districts so they know what the expectations are.
- Need strong leadership in the district to hold interns for more than a year.

COMMENTS:

- Looking at this, scratch head, why Chapter 77 going up, but Chapter 79 going up and then have this back door.
- Doesn't allow for innovation in traditional programs, but alternative way
- Lack of talk about rural areas 5-6 preps, pay own medical insurance, etc.
- Challenges for rural areas, low salary, no social life.
- How many jobs actually open and number in the area
- What schools need and what kids need often very different
- Hire teachers without the credentials, unsafe situations for many students, hire one physics teacher and let them travel to several districts for higher quality.
- Follow up in difficulty of finding science people; biology, physics, and Earth Science are all different endorsement areas, but many districts only have one science teacher.
- Endorsement piece up to candidate to get; intern program is just the teaching licensure piece.
- Can they get an internship for one hour a day, yet, but part of mentor program, plus 3 credit hours, plus don't give undue extra assignments.
- ISEA says you can't discriminate, make first year teachers do it, so make interns do it too, not good for first year teachers, not good for interns.
- Different admission process for very experienced people.
- What do you do about methods?
- Do you have Iowa Core Curriculum and National Professionally Board Certified Teachers to help?
- Put out with wrong cooperating teacher and student teachers lose all you've done the last four years; taught how the cooperating teacher wanted. Interns can do it how they were taught to do it, more control with the intern and how they will teach versus how cooperating teacher wants student teacher to teach.
- Often go back to how high school teacher taught. Closer to mentors then could strengthen support for best practice, revert when in stressful situation, and need support that first year
- Don't want best cooperating teachers pulled away to mentor these interns who haven't had student teaching or much training.

- Put heart and soul in our traditional students, don't want to lose good cooperating teacher to the interns, both programs need access to good resources, same opportunities
- Mentor role different than cooperating teacher, but best often get pulled in to do everything i.e. -mentor, cooperating teacher, team leader, dept chair, etc.
- Physics background gets physics endorsement, need coursework for the endorsement (24 hours BOEE minimum); if currently teaching Biology or Chemistry, need 15 hours if have 30 hours in broad science area, working only on physics endorsement. Must go through BOEE regular licensure. If teaching license in English, just need methods course plus content in other endorsement desired.
- In Regents in from beginning to end, can't transfer in any courses. Get it all up front and then gets deeper as they progress through the program.
- Cost of Regents program at this time = \$ 7,000 maximum for tuition and fees.
- Iowa's intern programs are not fast track programs like in other states; they are a faster way to the classroom but not to licensure. Quality based on what they need to be effective teacher, approved and accredited the same as traditional programs.