

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USF education department earns NCATE re-accreditation

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The Fredrikson School of Education at the University of Sioux Falls has proven its commitment to producing quality teachers by achieving re-accreditation this month under the performance-oriented standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the organization responsible for professional accreditation of teacher education.

USF offers undergraduate majors in elementary education and secondary education. Graduate degrees include leadership in schools, leadership in technology, leadership in reading, education specialist and education in teaching, a master's degree designed for individuals who already possess a bachelor's degree and want to teach at the secondary level. USF also offers a collaborative doctorate with St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minn.

"Receiving the official word on our NCATE accreditation status was music to our ears," said Dr. Rachele Loven, who was chair of the education department from 2003 until summer 2009 and oversaw the NCATE accreditation process. "The board's decision to grant continued national accreditation for our programs supports the affirming voices we hear from our K-12 partners. USF students are well prepared to impact the lives of K-12 learners, and we are proud of the work they do."

NCATE-accredited schools must meet rigorous standards set by the profession and members of the public. The university must carefully assess teacher candidates' knowledge and skill to determine that they may graduate. USF maintains partnerships with K-12 schools that enable candidates to develop the skills necessary to help students learn. Future teachers must be prepared to understand and work with diverse student populations. University faculty must model effective teaching practices, and the university's department of education must have the resources, including information technology, necessary to prepare candidates to meet new standards.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes NCATE as a specialized accrediting body for schools, colleges and departments of education. NCATE is composed of more than 30 professional and policymaker organizations representing millions of Americans committed to quality teaching. It was founded in 1954 by the teaching profession and the states.

For more information about USF's teacher education programs, visit www.usioxfalls.edu/education. More information about NCATE is available at www.NCATE.org.

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