

Teacher Education Council End of Year Report 2020-2021
Chair: Myra Lovett, Ed.D.

The council is comprised of faculty across disciplines to speak to current issues in education. The group met in the fall to recap what had taken place as a result of last year's council and to have discussions and make recommendations moving forward. Last year's focus was partnering with the School of Sciences in supporting the new children's science museum by aiding in alignment of offerings with Louisiana Student Standards and training with sciences and technology on campus for candidate preparation and K-12 student opportunities. Dr. Kim Tolson was contacted and a joint initiative was formed as recommended by this committee. The School of Education shared a graduate assistantship with Dr. Tolson specifically for alignment of offering with K-12 science standards. This work began in fall 2020 and continues. The graduate assistant is a current doctoral student and local teacher with a firm understanding of K-12 standards. Together with Dr. Tolson, a museum calendar, Facebook page, and LDOE State Standards are being aligned with museum offerings. Dr. Tolson outlined all the museum offerings including availability for small groups which will be shared with K-12 learners who are participating in School of Education on-campus candidate-led lessons.

This year's topics included sharing with the council the opportunities for our candidates and K-12 partners with Educators Rising which is a high school and collegiate organization that supports future teachers and gives opportunities to grow, develop, and connect to other future educators; sharing new initiatives in our advanced M.Ed. and Ed.D. programs to be models of excellence and discuss areas of strength and need. Recommendations included increased scaffolds and supports for teacher candidates due to deficits caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and focusing on culturally responsive teaching practices in light of current needs in education specific to diversity, equity, and inclusion. These recommendations will be shared with School of Education faculty and incorporated into professional development planning for the 2021-2022 year.