



*Professional Education Programs*

**MEMO**

**To:** Dr. Pradeep Maxwell Dass  
Ms. Sharon Cardenas

**From:** Cynthia Conn, PhD, Acting Assistant Vice Provost

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Conn".

**Date:** 1/28/2014

**RE:** NCATE accreditation implications of the BSEd Physics Secondary Education proposed program changes

I write in my capacity as the Northern Arizona University Acting Assistant Vice Provost for the Professional Education Programs which is accredited by NCATE. This review is in regards to compliance with NCATE/CAEP accreditation. The BSEd Physics Secondary Education is reviewed through the NCATE/CAEP Specialized Professional Association Program Review process which is accepted by the Arizona Department of Education per the Arizona and NCATE state agreement. Based on the success of the BSEd Physics Secondary Education SPA program review and the unit level or institutional accreditation process, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) does grant an institutional recommendation for this program. This memo addresses accreditation and state review issues only, and should not be construed as an endorsement of any proposed changes.

Additionally, this verification does not include evaluation of the content related assessments required by the NAU Professional Education Programs. However, there is still several assessment requirements noted in the NCATE/CAEP guidelines and established by the Professional Education Programs that are needed for the unit level or institutional accreditation report.

**Accreditation Verification:** The proposed program changes for the BSEd Physics Secondary Education are comparable to or strengthen the previous requirements and maintain documentation of candidate performance regarding institutional, state, and national level standards and criteria required for NAU's NCATE/CAEP accreditation status.

**Rationale:** It is my understanding from the justification in the documentation provided that changes are being made to meet new SPA standards. It appears that these changes should not affect candidates' ability to demonstrate State, NCATE/CAEP or Unit level standards. The proposed changes should not jeopardize NCATE/CAEP accreditation or ADE institutional recommendation.