TO: **Academic Policies Committee**

FROM: College of Education and Human Sciences

DATE: October 6, 2020

RE: Department Name Change

We request implementation of the following program change with the next possible *Catalog*.

Name of Department — Department of Education Studies

Date of Department/Program Approval — July 30, 2020
Date of CoEHS Curriculum Committee Approval – September 18, 2020
Date of CoEHS College Approval – October 2, 2020

From: **Link From Current Catalog Web Page**

To: Rename Department: Education for Equity and Justice

Rationale: Education for Equity and Justice (EEJ) more accurately reflects and is consistent with the philosophy of the Department. Equity and justice must be central tenets of educator preparation for K-12 schools, and they constitute a thread that runs through the current and proposed programs. Our faculty members commit annually to EDI in their teaching, scholarship, service, undergraduate research collaborations, mentoring, and personal lives. Our proposed courses in our new elementary/middle program highlight the ways that equity and social justice impact K-12 schools, and we center these issues in courses such as Introduction to English Learners, Multicultural Children's Literature, and Social Foundations: Human Relations. Our graduate offerings include EDI and social justice strands in all courses in the current Master of Education in Professional Development program. In addition to the quantifiable course content is the way that faculty engage future teachers in course discussions and specific evaluative feedback about equity and justice. Our courses and instructors intentionally challenge students to deconstruct both socially fabricated privileges and marginalizations. Lastly, our standards for new faculty hires are uncompromising when it comes to their involvement in equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice. The department is still retaining its elementary/middle education major and Education Studies prefix so students can easily find the department or major through a basic search.