College Receives NCATE, CAEP Accreditation for Education Unit

January 15, 2014

The National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education (NCATE) and The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the newly established educator accreditation organization, granted Ursuline’s Education Unit professional accreditation for its undergraduate and graduate education programs. Ursuline is one of six colleges in the country to receive this dual accreditation, which is valid until spring 2020.

“We are thrilled to be one of only a handful of educator preparation institutions in the country to have achieved this dual status. This recognition of our excellent programs reflects the quality of our graduates and their rigorous preparation for their places in the education community,” Jeanne Sternad, Ursuline Education Unit Executive Director, said.

This accreditation indicates that the College’s Education Unit meets the demanding standards set forth by the professional education community. It also means that Ursuline students are well prepared for state licensing standards and can compete with teachers anywhere in the United States.

Ursuline’s Education Unit meets all six standards of CAEP and NCATE, which include: the knowledge, skills and dispositions required by the candidates; the system used to assess the unit and its programs; the field and student-teaching experiences required of candidates; diversity of candidates and experiences; faculty; and governance.

In addition to reports documenting evidence of processes and outcomes addressing the standards, the accreditation team reviews candidate work samples, surveys of graduates and cooperating teachers and administrators and personal interviews by a team of five examiners who visit the campus.

CAEP accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement, according to the organization’s website. More than 900 educator preparation providers will eventually participate in the CAEP accreditation system, which serves all providers currently accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

The Ohio High School Principal of the Year designation is awarded once a year by the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators to an outstanding principal. In the last 5 years, 3 Ursuline Education Administration alumni were awarded this prestigious designation.

Once a year, Ursuline College honors a faculty member with the Teaching Excellence Award. In 2013, Marty Kane, Director of the Education Administration program, was presented with this award. Professor Kane was nominated by numerous students and alumni who were influenced by him. The Education Unit is proud of the impact of its faculty.
Garity's Natalie Wester named 2010 Ohio Teacher of Year

December 18, 2009

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS — Natalie Wester does not see her being selected as 2010 Ohio Teacher of the Year as recognition of herself.

“I see it as recognition of the teachers here at Garity, because we work together,” she said. “I couldn’t be successful if it wasn’t for all my colleagues and their help and collaboration every day.”

Wester, a third-grade teacher at Garity Professional Development School in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district, received the award at a school assembly Thursday (Dec. 17).

She said she was totally surprised when Deborah Delisle, state superintendent of public instruction, made the announcement.

Delisle, former CH-UH schools superintendent, hired Wester for the job at Garity when they met at a teacher recruiting fair in 2005.

The Ohio Department of Education selected Wester as the state’s best teacher from a group of five finalists. Wester was nominated by Garity Principal Sherry Miller.

Note: Natalie Wester is a graduate of Ursuline College’s Master Apprenticeship Program (MAP).