



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 29, 2004

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.  
*Tom Watkins*

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of a Committee of Scholars to Review the University of Phoenix Application for an Elementary Teacher Preparation Program

The University of Phoenix has prepared an application for approval of an elementary teacher preparation program to be offered onsite at several Michigan campuses. The institution received preliminary approval as a Michigan teacher preparation institution from the State Board in February 2001, which granted permission to develop this program.

In accordance with established procedures, a committee of scholars comprised of professionals, with expertise and experience in teacher education, is selected to review the application, visit the institution's Michigan campuses, and make recommendations regarding approval. Attachment 1 is the Committee of Scholars recommended to assume these responsibilities. Three of the five members of the original Committee of Scholars that was approved by the Board in October 1999 continue to be available to work with the institution; while individuals have been nominated to replace the two members who have resigned. The University of Phoenix has reviewed the nominations and supports the appointment of this committee. Esther Coleman and Debra Thatcher are proposed as replacements for Nancy Cooley and Elizabeth Carlson, who no longer represent teacher preparation institutions in Michigan. Attachment 2 includes the biographical resumes for Dr. Coleman and Dr. Thatcher.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Esther M. Coleman and Dr. Debra Thatcher as replacement members of the Committee of Scholars to review the University of Phoenix application for an elementary teacher preparation program, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 29, 2004.

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**Recommended Committee of Scholars  
To Review an Application for Approval of  
A Program to Prepare Elementary Teachers**

**The University of Phoenix**

**Esther M. Coleman, Ph.D.  
Chair, Education Department  
Marygrove College**

**Don Johnson  
Third Grade Teacher  
Holt Public Schools**

**Dr. Jerry Robbins, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Education  
Eastern Michigan University**

**Dr. Reuben Rubio, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean, School of Education  
Spring Arbor University**

**Dr. Debra Thatcher, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean, School of Education  
Northern Michigan University**

**Note:** Debra Thatcher is nominated to replace Nancy Cooley, former Dean of Education at Ferris State University. Esther Coleman is nominated to replace Elizabeth Carlson, former Chair of Education at the University of Detroit-Mercy.

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Biographical Resume  
Nomination for University of Phoenix Committee of Scholars

1. **Name:** Esther Meyers Coleman
2. **Address:** 7121 West Outer Drive; Detroit MI 48235
3. **Present Position:** Chair, Education Department; Marygrove College
4. **Business Address:** 8425 West McNichols Road; Detroit MI 48221-2599
5. **Telephone:** Home (313) 838-7432 Business (313) 927-1463
6. **Nominating Organization:** Michigan Department of Education  
Office of Professional Preparation Services
7. **Race\*** African American **Sex\*** Female
8. **Prior Experience:** I was a classroom teacher in Michigan for 14 years and for 3 years in California. I have been a teacher organization officer responsible for research dissemination on effective teaching at the national level, and for staff development planning and implementation activities in my local district. I have taught teacher education courses at WSU, Oakland University, and Marygrove College. Presently I chair the Teacher Education Department at Marygrove and coordinate the Graduate Reading Program.
9. **Educational and Other Organizational Affiliations:** Memberships: IRA, MRA, Phi Delta Kappa, Delta Kappa Gamma, NCTE
10. **Education:** Ph.D. Reading & Language Arts, Oakland University, Rochester MI  
M.ED, Educational Leadership, Wayne State University;  
B.S. Education, Wayne State University
11. **Miscellaneous:** Dominican Literacy Center Advisory Board

\*Optional

# STA' BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Biographical Resume Nomination for University of Phoenix Committee of Scholars

1. **Name:** Debra H. Thatcher
2. **Address:** 107 Valley Road, Negaunee MI 49866
3. **Present Position:** Associate Dean, School of Education, Northern Michigan University
4. **Business Address:** 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette MI 49855
5. **Telephone: Home:** (906) 475-4451      **Business:** (906) 227-1880
6. **Nominating Organization:** Michigan Department of Education  
Office of Professional Preparation Services
7. **Race\*** White                      **Sex\*** Female
8. **Prior Experience:** 11 years experience as K-3 classroom teacher; 13 years experience as university professor of elementary and early childhood education; 5 years experience in university-level education department administration responsible for program approval and accreditation; 4 years experience reviewing teacher education programs for the National Association for the Education of Young Children; ½ year experience as member of NCATE Board of Examiners; numerous publications and presentations at state and national levels on mathematics, science, literacy, and creativity for P-6 grades
9. **Educational and Other Organizational Affiliations:** National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Council for the Teaching of Mathematics (NCTM), Phi Delta Kappa(PDK), NCATE Board of Examiners, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
10. **Education:** Ph.D. – Elementary Education, University of South Carolina, 1993  
M.Ed. – Early Childhood Education, University of South Carolina, 1991;  
B.S. – Elementary Education, University of Wyoming, 1980
11. **Miscellaneous:** Project Wild Facilitator; Director of Glenn T. Seaborg Center for Teaching and Learning Science and Mathematics; multiple education grants (local, state, and national)

\*Optional