

### Department of Teacher Education Response to Dean's Restructuring Proposal

The Department of Teacher Education believes in continuous improvement and the need to change given the changes in education locally and nationally. The Department feels that many elements of its current programs are good, but it is also committed to working with the Dean and colleagues within the School of Education and Professional Studies as well as across campus to make these programs even better.

The Dean proposes to close the department of Teacher Education and disperse the faculty and programs among four departments. Three of these are a newly created department of Secondary Education, a Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Literacy Education; and a department focusing in inclusive education. The plan also calls for moving the Educational Studies Division to the Department of Educational Leadership and Technology and for moving the Masters in Arts in Teaching (MAT) to what is currently the Department of Special Education.

The faculty in the Department of Teacher Education wants the best for our students. We're open to change and the need for restructuring. However, the sweeping structural changes brought forth in the Dean's proposal have understandably invited concerns, questions, and criticism. As the plan and the plan of action continue to evolve; we look forward to greater dialogue – building on shared problem-solving which respects the spirit of collegiality.