

2023.2.1.18a: Letter from the Ponce School Superintendent recognizing UPRM EPP co-construction

Evidence Overview

Dr. Roberto Rodríguez Santiago, the School District Superintendent of the Ponce Regional Educational Office in Puerto Rico, extended profound commendation to the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez's Educator Preparation Program (UPRM EPP) in a letter dated April 16, 2024. He lauded UPRM EPP for its outstanding commitment to crafting high-quality teacher preparation programs through collaborative initiatives. The letter highlights the program's strategic integration of partnerships with the Department of Education to tailor clinical experiences that meet educational standards and contemporary needs. The process involves stakeholder engagement, continuous feedback, and iterative improvements based on real-world teaching scenarios, which collectively enhance the program's effectiveness and relevance in preparing future educators. The Superintendent's appreciation underscores the ongoing partnership's success in evolving educational practices to address changing demands effectively.

CAEP Standards

Alignment

Initial

Advanced

2.1

The Evidence

Dr. Roberto Rodríguez Santiago, Superintendent of the Ponce School District in Puerto Rico, praised the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez's Educator Preparation Program (UPRM EPP) for its collaborative and innovative approach to teacher preparation, emphasizing its alignment with educational standards and contemporary needs in a letter dated April 16, 2024.



GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO
DEPARTAMENTO DE EDUCACIÓN

OFICINA REGIONAL EDUCATIVA PONCE

April 16, 2024

Dr. Santiago Méndez-Hernández
Director
Teacher Preparation Program
University of Puerto Rico
Mayagüez Campus

Dear Dr. Méndez-Hernández,

On behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Education Ponce School District, I am writing to express our profound appreciation and commendation for the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Educator Preparation Program (UPRM EPP). Your program's dedication to the collaborative co-construction of high-quality teacher preparation initiatives is exemplary and deserves recognition.

Recognition of Collaborative Efforts:

Your program's approach is exemplary in integrating strategic partnerships with the Department of Education, ensuring that the clinical experiences provided to your students are not only compliant with educational standards but are also finely tailored to meet the contemporary needs of our educational community.

Highlights of the Collaborative Design and Implementation Process:

1. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Your commitment to engaging key stakeholders, including our school administrators, current teachers, and representatives from our department, has been crucial in defining the goals and ensuring the alignment of clinical experiences with regulatory standards and practical classroom needs.
2. **Needs Assessment:** The initial consultations with partner schools to identify specific educational needs and opportunities have been pivotal in addressing the diverse challenges of today's educational environments.
3. **Co-Design of Clinical Experiences:** The clinical experiences, co-designed based on thorough needs assessments, have provided comprehensive exposure to real-world teaching scenarios, incorporating diverse educational strategies, technology integration, and a focus on inclusivity and social justice.

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4. **Implementation with Continuous Support:** The implementation of these experiences is commendably monitored by UPRM EPP faculty and school supervisors, with regular adjustments based on feedback from teacher candidates and supervising teachers.
5. **Feedback and Evaluation:** The ongoing feedback mechanism throughout the clinical experiences has been vital for assessing the effectiveness of the teaching strategies and the overall impact of the clinical experiences.
6. **Continuous Improvement:** Each clinical cycle concludes with a comprehensive review of feedback and outcomes, enhancing the quality of subsequent iterations of the clinical experiences.
7. **Documentation and Reporting:** The meticulous documentation and regular reporting of all aspects of the design and implementation process help demonstrate the effectiveness of the clinical experiences and facilitate evidence-based decisions for future enhancements.

Through these collaborative and systematic processes, UPRM EPP ensures that the clinical experiences provided to candidates are of the highest quality and relevant to the current educational demands. Your efforts are foundational in continuously evolving and effectively responding to the changing needs of the educational landscape.

We look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership and supporting UPRM EPP's commitment to preparing well-equipped educators for the future. Thank you for your exemplary contributions to education.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Roberto Rodríguez Santiago
School District Superintendent
Ponce Regional Educational Office

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