Curriculum Instruction and Assessment

Application to participate in the 2015-2018 OPS/UNO Career Ladder in Reading Cohort #3

The program includes one to two years of coursework plus a three-year professional development commitment.

The Career Ladder in Reading is a program that will lead to a Master’s Degree in Reading or a reading endorsement. The program consists of twelve classes with embedded practicum experiences. Participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- District and building needs
- Full-time certified staff with a minimum of two years teaching experience in OPS
- Cannot be enrolled in another endorsement/graduate program
- Preference will be given to K-6 classroom teachers and 7-12 Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts/English, Reading teachers, as well as Special Education Resource teachers, ESL teachers and School Librarians

Classes will be held in an OPS facility or on the UNO campus. The graduate coursework program will begin in June 2015 and conclude in May 2017. Recesses will follow the OPS academic calendar. Additional requirements other than those of the graduate program are outlined below.

Standards and Requirements of the Program

Selected Participants will be required to:

- Provide 3 hours per month of professional development in their buildings. This commitment will begin during the spring semester of the first year and continue for three years after completion of the program. Professional development opportunities include but are not limited to faculty meetings, curriculum days, team plan, school improvement workshops, summer trainings, or grade-level meetings.
- Continue employment with the Omaha Public Schools for three years after completion of graduate degree.
- Attend a minimum of at least one local/state/regional reading conference(s), which is held outside of student contact time during the two-year graduate coursework period. Conference registration and travel expenses would be paid for through the grant but no stipends will be provided.
- Work with OPS and/or external evaluator in gathering of data, etc.
- Meet quarterly on a Saturday for two hours with OPS staff and UNO faculty liaison(s) for coordination of project activities for the duration of the program and for three years following completion of degree. No stipends will be provided for these meetings.
- Commit to existing program of study and timeline as determined by OPS and UNO.

If you are interested in being considered for this program, please complete the following application form and send it to Amy Tunning in Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Room 4-163, fax it to 402-557-2577, or email it to Amy.Tunning@ops.org by November 14th, 2014. Participants will be notified by January 6, 2015. If accepted, you will be required to attend an informational meeting on January 27th, 2015, at 4:45 p.m. at the UNO Alumni Center. All tuition, fees, books, and conferences will be fully funded.
Application

OPS/UNO Career Ladder in Reading – Cohort 3

A. Personal Data

First Name: ___________________________  Last Name: ___________________________

Previous Name: ___________________________

School Name & Address: ___________________________

Position: ___________________________

Home Address: ___________________________

City: ___________________________  State: ___________________________  Zip: ___________________________

Birthdate: ___________________________

E-mail: ___________________________  Phone: ___________________________

Resident of Nebraska: Yes / No

Have you taken a course at UNO during the past four years?  Yes / No

If yes, what is your student NU ID? ___________________________

B. Educational Data

List in chronological order all colleges and universities (including UNO or other University of Nebraska campuses), technical, business, professional or correspondence schools attended.  Report all schools regardless of whether credit was earned.  Attach supplemental list if necessary.  UNO requires original transcripts.

☐ I will have my transcripts sent at my expense when requested.

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<th>Name of College/University</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Start Mo/Yr</th>
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C. Program Choice

Master of Science in Reading: ________  36 credit hour program

Reading Specialist Endorsement: ________  18 credit hour program

(must have a Masters in Education)
D. Statement of Understanding

Applicant’s Statement:
I understand that acceptance into this program affirms my commitment to meet the standards of the program and to complete the requirements of the program. I agree to a three-year commitment to teaching in the Omaha Public Schools and to providing my peers with professional development on literacy during and upon completion of my one to two year graduate coursework program in reading.

Applicant’s Signature: ________________________________  Date: __________

Principal’s Statement:
I believe that this applicant is a good candidate for the OPS/UNO Career Ladder in Reading program, and that I will want them to lead professional development on literacy in my building.

Principal’s Signature: ________________________________  Date: __________

E. Statement of Purpose

Please respond to the following question. Your response should be attached on a separate sheet of paper, typed, and no more than one page in length.

Question:  How will the OPS/UNO Career Ladder in Reading program assist you in your work with students and/or teachers?