Council for the
Accreditation of
Educator Preparation

1140 19th Street, NW | Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036
tel: 202.223.0077 | fax: 202.296.6620
caepnet.org

May 21, 2015

Jean C. Whitney
Associate Dean
University of Southern Maine
College of Education and Human Development
117 Bailey Hall
Gorham,ME 04038

Dear Dr. Whitney,

I am happy to confirm that the *Inquiry Brief* Commission of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) concluded at its meeting on April 29, 2015, in Bethesda, MD, that the evidence presented in your *Inquiry Brief Proposal, as* verified by the audit and evaluated by the Initial Review Panels, merits TEAC Accreditation status.

The *Inquiry Brief* Commission unanimously passed the following motion:

> **The Teacher Education Program[1] submitted by University of Southern Maine is granted Accreditation (7 years) with no areas for improvement but one stipulation cited.**
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> **Stipulation in *Quality Principle 3.2***
> Given current university-wide budget cuts, in two years time CAEP will require evidence of sufficient capacity to continue the program at the level represented in the Inquiry Brief.
>
> **Justification for the stipulation cited in *Quality Principle 3.2***
> While the program satisfies the quality principles, the budget situation in the state is unstable to the degree that assurance cannot be provided at this time that the program will retain the capacity to maintain the quality currently in place. For that reason CAEP will require evidence in two year's time that will show that the current levels of quality still obtain and can be counted on in the future.

The Teacher Education program's TEAC accreditation status is effective between April 2015 and April 29, 2022.

This letter will be sent in both electronic and paper format, and, with the paper copy, we will enclose an insert that you may wish to display in your membership plaque.

Your Accreditation status also entitles your program to use one of the statements of affiliation and accreditation in the endnote below[2] and is conditional upon your continued adherence to the principles, standards, and policies of the *Inquiry Brief* Commission (www.teac.org). In announcing your accreditation status, you must make clear that it is the Teacher Education Program cited in your *Inquiry Brief* Proposal that is accredited by the IB Commission and not your department or institution.

I draw your attention to CAEP's requirements for your annual reports displayed on the CAEP website: http://caepnet.org/accreditation/epp-annual-report/. Annual reports are submitted each year in the Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS). You will be notified of the submission dates in early 2016.

In keeping with CAEP's policy on Public Disclosure and Transparency of Accreditation Information (Policy XXXIX), we request that you post links to performance assessment summaries and other information (including websites reporting Title II data) and a link to the Summary of the Case that appears on the TEAC website (www.teac.org).

As the transition to CAEP standards progresses, you will receive more information. I encourage your institution to begin now to plan for the CAEP standards and processes, and to take advantage of CAEP's capacity-building opportunities. As a first step, resources can be found on CAEP's website www.caepnet.org.

If you have any questions about this accreditation decision or about accreditation going forward, please feel free to contact Christine Carrino Gorowara, Vice President for the *Inquiry Brief* Pathway and CAEP Evidence, at christine.gorowara@caepnet.org or 202-753-1653.

Congratulations on your accreditation achievement. We look forward to learning more about the evidence for the continued improvements you will be making in your teacher education program. We hope you will share what you are learning with others at CAEP and other conferences and will continue to be an active participant in CAEP and the IB Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher A. Koch
Interim President

CC: Harry Osgood

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[1] The University of Southern Maine teacher education program offers options at the undergraduate level in K-8 general education; 7-12 English/Language Arts, mathematics, life science, physical science, social studies and K-12 foreign language, option at the post-baccalaureate level in K-8 general education; 7-12 English/Language Arts, mathematics, life science, physical science, social studies and K-12 foreign language, and at the graduate level in K-8 or 7-12 special education—mild to moderate and severe to profound. The state of Maine, at its discretion, offers licensure to program completers in these option areas.

[2] **Statement of Affiliation and Accreditation**

Programs accredited by the IB Commission of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation that wish to state this affiliation in published materials should use one of the following official statements, in accordance with CAEP Policy VI (Representation of Accreditation Status to the Public):

Teacher Education Program at University of Southern Maine is awarded TEAC accreditation by the Inquiry Brief Commission of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) for a period of seven years, from April, 2015 and April, 2022. The accreditation does not include individual education courses that the EPP offers to P-12 educators for professional development, re-licensure, or other purposes