



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #VI.E.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas A. Desjardin, Acting Commissioner\*

DATE: February 11, 2015

SUBJECT: Approval of the Review Team for the Valparaiso University Out-of-State Institution Application Review to offer a three credit residency course in Maine.

**BACKGROUND:** Valparaiso University (VALPO), an independent Lutheran University with 4,400 undergraduate and graduate students is located 55 miles southeast of downtown Chicago. VALPO offers 110 majors and minors through the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Nursing. VALPO also has an honors college, School of Law, and 40 degree and certificate programs in its Graduate School and Office of Continuing Education.

Among its many programs, VALPO currently offers a 33-credit master's degree in Humane Education (HUED). This online program is situated at VALPO and approved through the faculty governance process at the University. It is administered through the Department of Education under the auspices of The Graduate School. As the program falls under the jurisdiction of VALPO's Department of Education, it undergoes NCATE review as part of that department's regular 7-year re-accreditation cycle. All courses and faculty in the program are approved by the Department of Education and hired through the University. In addition, the program is included in their accreditation through the Indiana Higher Learning Commission.

The Institute for Humane Education in Maine (IHE) is a partner in this program, having contributed to the conceptualization and development of the Humane Education curriculum and currently contributing to the delivery of courses for the program through several of its instructors (along with several other faculty both at VALPO and elsewhere in the US). As part of the program, students spend a weeklong summer residency in Surry, Maine where they earn the equivalent of 3 credits which are applied to the degree program. This weeklong residency in Maine constitutes a physical presence and therefore for which they seek compliance.

Toward that end VALPO has submitted an application for an out-of-state institution to offer a 3 credit residency course in Maine. This application will need to be evaluated focusing primarily upon whether the applicant meets the Board's course granting standards as found in Chapter 149. An interview with VALPO is scheduled for March 12, 2015 via Skype.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the State Board of Education approves the list for potential State review team members for the Valparaiso University Out-of-State Institution Application Review and designate Dr. Thomas Edwards of Thomas College as Chair.

\*Presented by Ángel Martínez Loredó  
Higher Education Specialist  
Maine Department of Education

## Proposed State Review Team Membership

Chair Thomas Edwards, PhD  
Provost  
Thomas College  
Waterville, ME 04901

gkisedtanamoogk  
Instructor, Native American Studies  
The University of Maine  
Orono, Maine

Joseph Atkins, PhD  
Assistant Dean of Students  
Visiting Assistant Professor  
Colby College

### Non-Voting Participants

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Observer: William H. Beardsley, PhD  
Maine State Board of  
Education

State  
Consultant:

Ángel Martínez Loredó  
MDOE Higher Education  
Specialist