To: Tennessee Candidates  
Arkansas State University’s MSE in Educational Leadership

From: Dr. Mitch Holifield  
Chair, Department of Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Special Education  
Arkansas State University

RE: Change in Tennessee Licensure Policy

Date: November 18, 2010

On October 29, 2010, the Tennessee State Board of Education approved the following policy regarding out-of-state principal preparation programs:

Effective July 1, 2011, no credential shall be issued that allows a person to be employed in a Tennessee public school as an administrator if that person was trained in another state or received training from any type of program not expressly approved by the State Board of Education of Tennessee.

Those holding or earning administrator credentials from another state issued after July 1, 2011 may be granted a Tennessee administrator credential if the person seeking the credential has demonstrated at least three years of successful school leadership within the last ten years, OR are recommended directly from a Tennessee Institution of Higher Education (IHE) with an approved leadership program.

Other states may make application to the State Board of Education (TN) for recognition of their credential in Tennessee. States making application must show significant alignment to the State Board of Education’s 'Learning-Centered Leadership Policy'.

Candidates enrolled in an out-of-state program to prepare for administrator licensure in Tennessee prior to January 1, 2011 have until July 1, 2012 to complete the program and apply for a Tennessee 'ILL-B' license.

In addition, on November 1, 2010, ASU received the following notification from Dr. Ken Nye, an official in the Office of Teacher Licensure in the Tennessee State Department:

Our office will begin advising candidates who contact us regarding out of state administrator licensing program based upon this policy change. Candidates already in the Arkansas State University program have until July 1, 2012 to complete their program and be eligible for a Tennessee administrator license. Should Arkansas seek to have its administrator credential approved by the State Board of Education, then candidates in your program after that date would become eligible for a Tennessee administrator license as well.

These notifications mean that those Tennessee candidates in Arkansas State University’s MSE in Educational Leadership or in a program of study have until July 1, 2012 to complete their academic preparation to be licensed as a Tennessee principal. I assure each of you that ASU will schedule course work to allow candidates enrolled as of November 1, 2010 to complete their studies by the July 1, 2012
ASU cannot guarantee that each candidate will complete work by that date, only that the courses will be scheduled to allow completion. For example, some candidates might encounter illness or make a grade of D or F in a course; both instances could result in having to repeat a course. I can, nevertheless, assure each of you that ASU will do everything that is within our control to help you successfully complete your degree or program by the Tennessee deadline. We are determined to warrant the faith that you have placed in us by enrolling in our program.

Arkansas State University regrets the action taken by the Tennessee State Board of Education and will explore means by which to have our program re-approved.

Sincerely,
Mitch Holifield, Ph.D.
Department Chair