

Update on Summit Preparatory Charter High School Intern Program March 2019

Overview

This agenda item presents an update from Summit Preparatory Charter High School to address the stipulations placed upon its Preliminary Single Subject intern program by COA at the January 2019 meeting. In addition, the item requests that the COA reconsider one aspect of the stipulations placed upon Summit at the January 2019 meeting.

Staff Recommendation

That the COA reconsider its action of January 2019 and allow Summit Preparatory Charter High School intern program to recommend candidates for a preliminary credential through June 30, 2019, as required by the *Accreditation Handbook*. If appropriate, the COA might want to require Summit to work with staff to review each recommendation before it is submitted as described on page 2 of this item.

Background

Summit Preparatory Charter High School (Summit) held an accreditation site visit on November 5-7, 2018. The full report is available here: [Summit 2018 Accreditation Team Report](#).

The COA granted the institution the accreditation status of **Accreditation with Probationary Stipulations** with the following stipulations:

1. That within one year, the institution host a revisit focusing on all standards found Not Met or Met with Concerns.
2. That the institution not be permitted to propose new credential programs for approval by the COA until the stipulations have been addressed.
3. That the current intern program be closed at the end of the term.
4. That the institution work to partner with a Commission approved single subject student teaching program (an institution of higher education) which will monitor and evaluate the candidates enrolled and, when appropriate, the partner student teaching based program would recommend these candidates for the credential.
5. That the institution not be permitted to admit new candidates for the current intern program or recommend for the credential.
6. That a plan for moving the intern program towards closure is presented to the COA at its March 14, 2019 meeting.

Per the *Accreditation Handbook*, all candidates must be notified in writing of the accreditation status and of the pending closure of the intern program. A copy of the notice was provided to the Commission staff and is included in this agenda item.

Part 1: Update from Summit

Personnel from Summit will provide an oral update on actions they have taken since the January 31, 2019 meeting of COA.

Part 2: Reconsideration of the January 2019 COA Decision

Page 9 of [Chapter 8 of the Accreditation Handbook](#) regarding the closure of an individual program, among other things, states the following:

An institution receiving a recommendation of Accreditation with Stipulations, Accreditation with Major Stipulations, or Accreditation with Probationary Stipulations that includes a stipulation that the institution close a credential program must:

- *Take immediate steps to close the identified program at the end of the semester or quarter in which the decision occurs.*

Given the language of the *Accreditation Handbook* above that indicates that the closure of a program take place at the ***end of the semester or quarter in which the decision occurs***, the COA is not permitted to prohibit Summit from recommending candidates for a credential until June 30, 2019. Staff recommends that COA remove stipulation #4 and amend stipulation #5 as indicated below and allow the program to recommend the current candidates, who have completed all state and program requirements, through June 30, 2019 as required by the Accreditation Handbook.

5. That the institution not be permitted to admit new candidates for the current intern program or recommend for the credential after June 30, 2019.

To ensure that each candidate has met the Commission's requirements, staff suggests that prior to Summit recommending a candidate, Summit would provide staff with the following information for the candidate:

- a. Evidence that the candidate has satisfied subject matter
- b. Evidence that the candidate has completed 600 hours of clinical practice
- c. Evidence that the candidate's master teacher held the appropriate clear credential, and if not, evidence that additional support was provided by the program by those who do hold the appropriate clear credential

The proposal for reconsideration to amend Stipulation #5 and remove Stipulation #4 as stated in this item would not impact the remaining stipulations. All other stipulations would remain as voted upon at the January 31, 2019 meeting. This would include that any remaining candidates who have not completed all program and state credential requirements by June 30, 2019 would need to be recommended by another Commission approved program since the Summit intern program would close on June 30, 2019.

February 21, 2019

Good afternoon Residents, CTs, and Partner Schools,

As you know, we built the Summit Learning Teacher Residency because we saw an opportunity to make the process for preparing teachers better. We are amazed by your work and dedication, and we are grateful for your partnership.

Creating a new, high-quality pathway into teaching isn't easy. While we continue to learn, we also have encountered challenges to our approach. This afternoon we convened most of the current Residents and shared information about a new challenge that has arisen. For those who were not present for our discussion, I'm writing to share that information.

Summit has worked closely with the state to launch this program. Everyone agrees that our residency program is excellent. Throughout the process of opening and running a teacher preparation program, the state has continued to change their position as to the legal requirements for running such a program. The most recent position change was raised without an opportunity to solve the issue. Instead, we were unfairly asked to close, in violation of the state's own accreditation program closure guidelines.

If this decision were to remain in effect, it means Summit cannot continue to credential teachers.

We have a strong basis for challenging this decision.

First of all, no matter what happens, each and every resident who finishes the program will be able to earn their credential.

This decision does not directly impact residents in the Alder partnership.

For residents who are enrolled in the Summit-only credentialing program, we are confident that those who finish the residency program will earn their credential. It is possible, though not probable, that we will not be the credentialing agency. Even if we are not the credentialing agency, this will not impact the possibility of residents reaching their goal of becoming a teacher at no additional out-of-pocket cost. This is our top priority.

This also does not impact the credentials we've already granted for alumni.

We are working now on an appeal, which we believe will be heard by the California Commission on Teaching Credentials in April. An appeal is only as strong as those making the case – that's all of us. We must together be willing to share our work, advocate for this uniquely excellent pathway into teaching, and dispel any concerns that would keep our program from being available to aspiring teachers in the future.

While we are still gathering more information, we pledge to share with you what we know, when we know it. We will be including updates in our weekly communication and more frequently as needed. We are here to answer your questions and work with you.

We will not only share updates, but also information on how you can support our appeal. Right now, we're hoping everyone can write letters of support for the program. We invite you to share your experience with the residency and the ways in which you believe the program will impact public education. Please send your letter of support to Laura Henderson:

lhenderson@summitps.org .

Our work thus far has been successful because it has been as a group, learning and growing together. It is important that we continue that approach now.

Thank you again for your dedication and partnership and please reach out to us with questions.