

## **UCA Middle Level Education Advisory Board**

Spring 2024 Meeting

**5/13/24**

**Participating Members:** Dawn McLain (North Little Rock- teacher), Naomi Sexson (Conway- teacher), Anthony Miller (Greenbrier - teacher), Gina James (North Little Rock - teacher), Janie Walburn (Conway- teacher), Jennifer Barber (Conway- teacher), Jessica Franklin (Conway- teacher), Elise Hampton (North Little Rock- principal), Christon McClure (North Little Rock - teacher)

Advisory board members were invited to participate virtually in the annual advisory board meeting.

### **Agenda:**

1. Each advisory board member has been in the role of mentor teacher or supervising administrator for a UCA internship I or II candidate during recent school years. Each member was invited to share program strengths and areas of improvement based on their observations and experiences.

### **Strengths:**

- Teachers from the program are well-prepared.
- Candidates are expected to maintain a professional appearance and behavior and are encouraged to use a mix of technology and traditional methods in teaching.
- School partnerships provide early field opportunities for students to observe real classroom settings and prepare them for internships.
  - Example: Introduction to Middle Level, Classroom Management, etc.
- Candidates demonstrate a willingness to engage with students and assist in classroom operations, showing proficiency in lesson planning and teaching.
- The program is praised for its efforts in recruiting diverse teacher candidates.
- Candidates excel in using technology for lesson design and implementation.
- Internship candidates come equipped with theoretical knowledge in classroom management and building positive relationships with students.

### **Areas of Improvement:**

- Professionalism of intern teachers' attire.
- Suggestion for candidates to attend Parent/Teacher Conferences to witness communication practices, potentially as a requirement.
- A call for continued focus on culturally responsive teaching practices.
- Recommendation for a follow-up process with first-year teachers to offer support and guidance.
- Classroom management - continued need for improvement for candidates to maintain appropriate boundaries with students in terms of rapport-building versus authority and accountability.
- Improvement in developing engaging lessons and managing time demands between internship classroom and UCA coursework.