

**Item 15:**  
**Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to  
Approve New Educator Preparation Program at Ana G.  
Méndez University**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to approve a request by Ana G. Méndez University, located in Dallas, to be approved as an educator preparation program through the alternative certification route. Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff reviewed the proposal and found that it complied with provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, Chapter 229, Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs, and Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter B, General Certification Requirements.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority related to the approval of educator preparation programs are the Texas Education Code, §21.0443 and §21.044.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon SBEC approval.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION:** The SBEC approves all educator preparation programs. The EPP prepares an extensive and complete application addressing the SBEC required components of governance, admissions criteria, curriculum, program delivery, and on-going support, evaluation, professional conduct, complaint process, issuance of certificates, and submission of required data. The proposal is reviewed by several TEA staff members who hold extensive discussions with the applying entity to ensure compliance with the SBEC rules. Ana G. Méndez University's application meets the minimum requirements for approval by the SBEC.

TEA staff members Vanessa Alba and Lorrie Ayers conducted a pre-approval on-site visit on Thursday, August 15, 2019 and found that Ana G. Méndez complied with the provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 227 Admission to an Educator Preparation Program and Chapter 228 Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs that govern approval of educator preparation programs.

**Certifications Requested:** Core Subjects EC-6, Bilingual Supplemental, English as a Second Language (ESL) Supplemental, and Special Education Supplemental.

**Anticipated Start Date:** January 1, 2020

**Anticipated Number of Educators for the First Year:** 59

**Cost of the Program per Participant:** \$4,650

**PUBLIC AND STUDENT BENEFIT:** The addition of this new educator preparation program will increase the number of qualified certified educators in Texas.

**ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Ana G. Méndez University as a new educator preparation program as presented.

**Staff Members Responsible:**

Tam Jones, Director, Educator Preparation

Vanessa Alba, Program Specialist, Educator Preparation

**Attachments:**

- I. Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Educator Preparation Programs
- II. Executive Summary for Ana G. Méndez University, Alternative Certification Route

**ATTACHMENT I**

**Statutory Citations Relating to the Approval of New Educator Preparation Programs**

**Texas Education Code, §21.0443, Educator Preparation (excerpts):**

- (a) The board shall propose rules to establish standards to govern the approval or renewal of approval of:
  - (1) educator preparation programs; and
  - (2) certification fields authorized to be offered by an educator preparation program.
- (b) To be eligible for approval or renewal of approval, an educator preparation program must adequately prepare candidates for educator certification and meet the standards and requirements of the board.

**Texas Education Code, §21.044, Educator Preparation (excerpt):**

- (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.

## ATTACHMENT II

### Executive Summary for Ana G. Méndez University, Alternative Certification Route

#### Introduction

Ana G. Méndez University Alternative Certification Program (AGMU-ACP), located at 3010 N. Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX, 75247, requests approval to offer an alternative certification educator preparation program serving North Texas. The program will certify candidates interested in becoming an EC-6 teacher with a supplemental area in Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language (ESL), or Special Education. The program anticipates certifying 59 candidates per year, with an anticipated start date of spring 2020 or immediately upon approval. The program's estimated tuition cost of \$4,650 is competitive with those in the region. AGMU-ACP seeks to alleviate teacher shortage areas and provide support for special populations with bilingual professional educators. In a unique program of dual language instruction in English and Spanish, candidates achieve language proficiency in both languages and the knowledge and skills to educate the large and growing population of English language learners (ELLs) and students with special needs. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) reports more than 100,000 Spanish-speaking ELL students in early education through sixth grade in Dallas County.

#### Component 1: Governance of Educator Preparation Programs

The advisory committee consists of 12 members: four members in public schools, three members in higher education, four members in the business/community area, and one member from an education service center. Members will be trained using TEA's advisory committee material and the institutional advisory committee handbook. Members assist in designing course content/delivery, evaluating the effectiveness of curriculum and program, and advising on major program policy decisions. Meetings are scheduled in September and January of each academic year.

#### Component 2: Admission Criteria

Applicants must have at least a bachelor's degree recognized by a regional accrediting agency with a minimum GPA of 3.00, complete an application, engage in the interview screening process, and meet English Language Proficiency requirements [19 TAC §227.10(a)(6)]. Out-of-country applicants must meet required degree requirements in [19 TAC §227.10(e)].

#### Component 3: Educator Preparation Curriculum

The program's curriculum is based on scientifically-based research and is aligned to the educator standards and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for each target area of certification. The curriculum includes research-based theory and practice of education and skills to meet competencies for the required subject matter in instructional planning/delivery, student learning, content knowledge, learning environment, assessment and data, and ethical and professional conduct. The Texas Educators' Code of Ethics, detection and education of dyslexia, mental health, reporting child abuse, and digital literacy are included as trainings. Courses use a variety of project and standard-based benchmark assignments and interactive activities to assess mastery of educator standards.

#### Component 4: Delivery & Ongoing Support

The 18-month program offers 310 clock-hours of coursework and training in a face-to-face setting. Teacher candidates will have knowledge of progress in the program through grades, feedback, and assessment. During the practicum, candidates will receive guidance from cooperating teachers/mentors and continuous support from a program field supervisor who is an

experienced Texas educator certified as a teacher. The field supervisor will make initial contact with all candidates within three weeks of assignment and conduct three formal observations that include a pre- and post-observation conference with feedback for each.

**Component 5: Candidate and Program Evaluation**

The candidate's progress and preparedness for examination will be monitored and evaluated through the completion of assignments and assessments with a grade of B or higher. Throughout the 270 hours of coursework and training and 40 clock-hours of field-based experiences, a candidate must meet the established student learning outcomes in syllabi/course outlines and benchmark assignments. Facilitators and the Program Coordinator will use a candidate's performance data to recommend for testing or remediation. For overall program evaluation, the Office of Planning, Assessment, and Compliance and the AGMU-ACP director will collect key performance indicators, as well as results from course and exit surveys, and discuss improvements with the advisory committee. Teacher and principal surveys will be used for continuous improvement in areas of delivery and ongoing support.

**Component 6: Professional Conduct**

All AGMU-ACP faculty members and candidates will be provided with copies of the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics and will be required to sign an affirmation indicating that they have read, understood, and will abide by the Code.

**Component 7: Complaints Process**

AGMU-ACP will implement processes to address informal and formal complaints. These processes are included in the student handbook and will be posted in the AGMU-ACP student services and the Educator Preparation Program offices. The program follows the published complaint process policy for the institution. However, if a student does not believe that he/she has reached a satisfactory resolution to a complaint, the student may file a formal complaint with the TEA.

**Component 8: Issuance of Certificates**

The program will ensure that candidates qualify for an intern, probationary, or standard certificate by strictly following the AGMU-ACP Benchmarks for Advancement. This document encompasses all the necessary steps a candidate must comply with, as described in state regulations. The program coordinator will only recommend candidates who have met all corresponding benchmarks for each certification and have all required documentation on record.

**Component 9: Accuracy of Data Reporting**

The certification officer, associate registrar or branch campus registrar, and/or program coordinator will certify that the candidate's information and official transcripts and/or documentation of work experience meet admissions requirements and that the candidate's GPA, course performance, and testing history meet criteria for recommendation for certification and completion of the program. All data will be submitted by September 15th into the Accountability System for Educator Preparation.