



LANE COLLEGE
Office of the President

October 2, 2018

Dear Tennessee Department of Education,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Lane College Teacher Preparation Program application to the State of Tennessee. Historically, Lane College was the place where school districts in Tennessee and across the nation recruited budding teachers who would go on to excellence in the classroom and the community. As president, establishing a teacher preparation program has been my highest priority for academic programs. The Lane College Board of Trustees, alumni of the College, currently enrolled students and the team of faculty, administrators and supporters who have labored for the past three years on this program and this application anxiously await your positive affirmation of our efforts and approval of our proposal.

On July 30, 2014, two days before I would begin my service as president of Lane College, I picked up The Jackson Sun, our local newspaper, and saw on the front page, above the fold, the lead headline, "Several jobs still open for teachers." The article read, "Students will return to school for a half day on Friday, but the Jackson-Madison County School System still has unfilled teaching positions..." I stopped reading mid-paragraph, stared into space and thought, "Lane must re-establish its Teacher Education program." As I felt that morning and continue to this day, Lane College has a duty to our community, the local school district and our students to rejoin the institutions that produce high performing teachers.

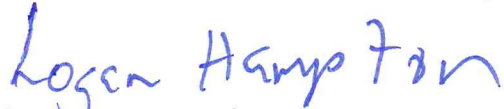
Over the first few months of my presidency, I engaged with State officials, reviewed files, and learned the gravity of the situation and the task before the College. Today, four years later, having built partnerships with our educational partners, conducted research, hired faculty and spent critical time writing and developing this proposal, I am confident that the College is now prepared to train the next cohort of world class teachers. With no FTE to support the program, the College committed the institutional resources, hired an interim director and three critical faculty, moved the music program out of Berry Hall to make way for the program and purchased equipment for the model classroom and other essential facilities. Further, the College made the program one of its federal Title III activities thus ensuring funding for the director's salary and maintenance and operation. To be clear, the College has carved out sufficient funds to support the program and assigned the personnel to ensure a successful launch of the program, sustain it in the near term and grow with student enrollment into the foreseeable future.



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The College is committed. I am committed to returning to our historic purpose of preparing the next generation of diverse, culturally responsive and innovative educators. I wait with great hope for your positive response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Logan Hampton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Logan Hampton, Ed.D.
President