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## *City of Jackson*

**JERRY GIST**  
MAYOR

October 19, 2018

State Specialty Area Licensure Program  
Tennessee Department of Education  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Board Members:

I am writing this letter of support for the reestablishment of the Teacher Education Program at Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee.

The goals of the Lane College Teacher Education program provide for a systemic approach to raising academic achievement of students in our public school system. The recent history of the Tennessee Department of Education demonstrates its commitment of district personnel to developing high quality programs based on educational research and providing the support necessary to successfully implement these programs district-wide. The result has been continuous improvement in the academic achievement of students in the district.

Research has consistently proven the importance of high-quality teachers. Many Tennessee school districts are low-income in both rural and urban communities and deal with the unique challenges facing underprivileged students. These districts are consistently faced with the problem of retaining high-quality teachers. The successful re-establishment of the Lane College Teacher Education Program will provide quality educators for our students and prove to be beneficial in providing a guide for other school districts that are facing similar challenges.

I highly support the efforts of Lane College in reestablishing their Teacher Education Program and believe the implementation of this program will provide effective, well-trained teachers that will have a positive impact on increasing academic achievement in school districts throughout our country.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Gist", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jerry Gist  
Mayor