

COLORADO COLLEGE

For Immediate Release

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CDE NOW ALLOWS COLORADO COLLEGE TO OFFER HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATION ENDORSEMENTS

CC's Literacy Intervention Specialist Certification Program fulfills criteria

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – March 17, 2014 – Colorado College recently received authorization from the Colorado Board of Education to offer endorsement preparation programs for reading teachers and reading specialists.

This means that educators who have their Colorado teacher licensure and have completed the Literacy Intervention Specialist Certification Program through the Summer Session at Colorado College may now also receive Reading Teacher Endorsement or Specialist Endorsements from the Colorado State Department of Education.

At their February meeting, the Colorado Department of Education found Colorado College's Literacy Intervention Specialist Certification Program (LISCP) meets the following criteria:

- It utilizes a program approved by the Colorado READ Act in order to teach the pedagogy of reading remediation.
- It is built in a holistic and developmental manner for students to grow and deepen their knowledge and skills over time.
- The program's developmental trajectory is comprehensive and systematic in terms of instructing students in the underlying pedagogy of reading instruction.
- LISCP uses scientifically based research as the foundation of the programs.
- Model lessons are presented throughout the LISCP courses.
- State expectations are clearly addressed throughout the LISCP program, including the literacy expectations.
- The program is heavily practicum-based, with rigorous expectations for lesson design, instruction, and assessment of students.

CC's Summer Session Literacy Intervention Specialist Certification Program was named by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) in 2012 as one of only nine university programs in the United States that meets the organization's "Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading."

The Literacy Intervention Specialist Certification Program at Colorado College began in the summer of 2008, under the direction of Lynne Fitzhugh, Ph.D., C.A.L.T., in partnership with the Colorado Literacy and Learning Center (known then as The Dyslexia Center.)

Since then, the program has grown from one course to seven, which provide graduate students 5.75 Colorado College units of credit and certification as literacy specialists. After the first year, individuals who complete the coursework and have sufficient teaching hours and observations may be permitted to sit for the national Alliance Exam to qualify for certification with the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) at the associate practitioner level and later at the therapist level.

Educators also may continue and receive a Master of Arts in Teaching and Literacy Intervention Specialist Certification with additional summer coursework and a master's capstone paper and seminar.

As of last summer, eight individuals have received their M.A.T. in literacy intervention.

Director of CC's Summer Session Ann Van Horn says, "This program is in high demand and will fill quickly this spring. Colorado College is providing a great service to the Colorado Springs community by providing this superb training to local teachers who care about literacy and helping all kids learn to read."

About Colorado College

Colorado College is a nationally prominent, four-year liberal arts college that was founded in Colorado Springs in 1874. The college operates on the innovative Block Plan, in which its approximately 2,000 undergraduate students study one course at a time in intensive 3½-week segments. The college also offers a master of arts in teaching degree. For more information, visit www.ColoradoCollege.edu