

First Edition

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EXPLORING EDUCATION

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Preface

The Oklahoma Academic Commitment to Education program began in the fall of 2002. Kyle Dahlem, Director of Teacher Education and Minority Teacher Recruitment Center, requested that the Oklahoma State Regents fund the development of a high school curriculum designed to encourage Oklahoma high school students, especially minority students, to consider a career in the field of education.

Dr. Susan L. Erwin, Cameron University, was awarded the contract to administer the development of the Academic Commitment to Education curriculum in April of 2003. The first edition of the curriculum was completed in July of 2003. Teachers were trained in the use of the curriculum and the course was field tested during the 2003-2004 school year.

Acknowledgements

Exploring Education, the text for Oklahoma's Academic Commitment to Education classes, could not have been developed without the contributions of a great number of professional educators throughout the state of Oklahoma. Special gratitude goes to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Office of Minority Teacher Recruitment for both defining the need for this curriculum and securing the funding to bring it to fruition.

In particular, this program would not have been developed without the commitment of Kyle Dahlem, Director of Teacher Education and Minority Teacher Recruitment Center, and Edra Thrower, Coordinator, Minority Teacher Recruitment Center. Their diligence led to the acquisition of the grant that funded the development of this recruitment curriculum.

Additionally, they both played an integral role in each phase of the development, writing, editing, training, and field testing of this material. The quality of this text reflects the suggestions, encouragement, and time they spent carefully critiquing drafts of the curriculum.

Other colleagues who contributed to the development of curriculum include the writers who helped to develop the lessons throughout the text.

Heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Isolete De Almeida (Cameron University) who created the wonderful lessons in multiculturalism and diversity found in Units II-V. Dr. De Almeida also developed lessons related to the profession of teaching. Dr. Sharon Brady (Cameron University) is commended for her masterful development of human growth and development activities found in Units II-V. Dr. John Erwin (MacArthur High School, Lawton, Oklahoma) is gratefully recognized for his development of Unit VII activities and current topics in education found in Units I-V. Additional thanks to Dr. Erwin for the copious hours he spent meticulously editing the final draft of the text.

Also acknowledged are the tremendous contributions of outstanding Oklahoma classroom teachers who furnished lesson suggestions, made recommendations, and assisted as reviewers and editors of this material. Special thanks to Dianne Hill (Muskogee High School) and Stan Starts (Jay High School) for the time they spent refining and polishing this work.

Finally, heartfelt admiration and recognition to the students and teachers of Oklahoma who have inspired all of us to endeavor to develop a course that is worthy of the new teachers who will determine the future of education in Oklahoma.

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