



October 29, 2025- 4:00 pm - Minutes

Present:

Terresa Kepner, Karen James, Ian Duckstein, Wendy Dillow, Tracy Nichols. Traci Gregory, Jillian O'Connell, Chad Spencer, Jenny Brooks, Josh Rider, Jason Allen, BB Mitchell, S. Neddons, Jeri Swogger, Denis Berenschot, Jennifer Buckley, Julia Tracy, David Modler, LeAnn Johnson, Angela Singer, Tauna Cole, Rick Bolling, Jennifer Buckley, Kaiti Hillman, April Vierra

SOE/EPP Celebrations/Events/Announcements

- Literacy Leaders Conference – March 28, 2026 @ Shepherd University. The Call for Proposals was sent with today's agenda. Registration information will be coming soon.
- Data Report – EPP-Wide Assessments. Shepherd EPP candidates continue to perform at or above proficiency levels on all EPP-wide assessments.
- The results from the Spring 2025 Deep-Dive Data Retreat were discussed. The School of Education is piloting a Common Lesson Plan template along with rubric initiatives. EPPC ad hoc committee will explore options to replace STOT. P-12 partners can contact Ms. Kepner for participation opportunities.

Information from WVDE: Dr. Traci Gregory

Dr. Gregory gave updates from WVDE. Her division has a new name – The Division of Instruction and Career Engagement. Her office is now the Office of Educator Development. Dr. Gregory listed the names of her office staff along with their roles. She talked to the county representatives about the MOU addendum. She also spoke about the WVDE scaffolded support plan for the 7-year accreditation cycle. Finally, Dr. Gregory talked about how the p-12 partners and the IHE can work together to have beneficial relationships.

SU EPP Advisory Council Meeting

- Feedback from P-12 Partners and Completers is needed. Part One has already been completed.
 - Part Two – Review responses for commonalities / potential "Areas of Improvement."
 - Part Three – Please respond to the "Priority Form" provided via email following today's meeting.

Stakeholder Celebrations/Upcoming Events

- P-12 partners and attending completers talked about some accomplishments and announcements about upcoming events.

SU EPP Program Updates

- **Special Education Endorsement**
 - Dr. Mitchell reported that the endorsement was approved by SOE, EPPC, and Grad Council.
 - The endorsement would be available to ALL education degree programs beginning Fall 2026 (BA and Grad).
 - Ms. Kepner called for a vote. All members present voted unanimously to approve and send to BOG in December.
- **CERTFirst and Master of Education in Teaching (MET) Programs**
 - Dr. Johnson talked about CERTFirst – a program leading to licensure.
 - She also talked about the MET program, which does not lead to licensure.
- **Co-Teaching Training**
 - Ms. Kepner talked about co-teaching training. All SOE/EPP faculty, student teaching and residency candidates, and P-12 mentors have successfully completed the training since its implementation in Fall 2024.

▪ Yearlong Residency – Status Update

- Ms. Kepner said a total of 58 candidates have successfully completed the yearlong residency as of Spring 2025 (ELED, SSED, ARED). Currently, 10 ELED candidates finishing Res 2, with 19 in their Residency 1 semester, and 11 on track for the spring.
- All entering freshmen (as of Fall 2024) are on the Residency Track; as of Fall 2027, all undergraduate candidates will experience a yearlong residency. More secondary candidates expected to pilot soon.
- All SOE/EPP candidates realizing increasingly higher summative in-classroom observational (STOT / TCDA) and final edTPA performance evaluations each semester.
- *Ms. Kepner took a live poll regarding one placement vs. two placements for Residency. The results were: 1 placement = 12% / 2 placements = 29% / Either 1 or 2 - as long as it is decided early and communication is good = 59%.*

P-12 Stakeholder Reports/Feedback/Comments/Questions

The purpose for the EPPAC (taken from Policy 5100): 10.1. Educator Program Provider Advisory Council (EPPAC):

Each EPP that offers a WVBE – approved EPP of study shall have an EPPAC comprised of representatives from college and university educators, teacher candidates, public school administrators and classroom teachers, and community representatives. The WVDE shall appoint a liaison to serve as a member of each institution's EPPAC. The liaison to the IHE from the WVDE shall serve in a nonvoting role. EPPAC serves as an advisory body to the EPP's chief officer in developing and reviewing all programs and policies for the preparation of educational personnel with the EPP. The EPPAC shall meet at least once a semester and shall review matters pertaining to the preparation and licensure of teachers, including the following:

- New and revised preparation programs;
- Admission, retention and exit criteria;
- Pre-professional skills, including trauma-informed and social-emotional best practices, content specialization, and professional education assessments;
- Educational technology activities and assessments;
- Annual testing and supply/demand reports;
- WVBE and national program reviews and findings;
- WVBE educational preparation and licensure policies and statutes;
- Recruitment of students;
- Clinical and field experiences; and
- Development of preparation of policies and programs for inclusion in WVBE self-study materials.

Educator Preparation Program of Study Modifications — Substantive program of study modification (e.g. addition or deletion of courses, significant changes in course content or clinical experiences) must be submitted to the EPPAC for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. James

Shepherd University Educator Preparation Program Advisory Council [EPPAC] - Minutes

April 15, 2026

Attendees: Kurtis Adams, Dawne Burke, Tauna Cole, Wendy Dillow, Ian Duckstein, Karen James, LeAnn Johnson, Teresa Kepner, Belinda Mitchell, David Modler, Tracy Nichols

Guests: Rick Bolling (Clarke County Public Schools - VA), Jenny Brooks (Berkeley County Schools – WV), Electa Crowder (WVDE), Lashante Knight (Frederick County Public Schools – VA), Tara Lusby (Little Eagle Childcare Center – Kearneysville, WV), Toya Piermarini (Frederick County Public Schools – MD), Jeri Swoffer (Frederick County Public Schools – VA), Daniel West (Frederick County Public Schools – VA)

Welcome – Ms. Kepner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

SOE/EPP Celebrations / Events / Announcements

- Dr. Johnson talked about the 12th annual Literacy Leaders Conference that was on March 28.
 - Thanks to Dr. Mary Hendrix for kicking off the event this year.
 - There were 98 attendees and 25 presenters.
 - Bryan Hott, Shepherd Alum & WV Teacher of the Year finalist, was the keynote speaker.
- Ms. Kepner gave the Data Report and talked about EPP-Wide Assessments.
 - Shepherd EPP Candidates continue to perform on average at or above proficiency levels on all EPP-wide assessments, with improved performance each year.
 - “Deep-Dive Data Retreat” – Spring 2026 will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm
 - Common Lesson Plan initiative – Update
 - EPPC *ad hoc* committee to explore potential options for replacing STOT (Fall 2026).
- School of Education Pinning Ceremony – Friday, May 8, 2026 @ 3:00 pm / Frank Arts Center
- Shepherd University Commencement – Saturday, May 9, 2026

Information from WVDE: Electa Crowder, Coordinator, Office of Educator Development

- Ms. Crowder talked about the current WVDE initiatives: *Science of Reading* and *Unite with Numeracy*.
- She said that policy changes are on hold until a ruling comes from the Supreme Court.
- LTRS training for college faculty and in-service teachers has been successful. All EPPs have been represented.
- WVDE Office of Research is working on a data dashboard. This new office is under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Rollins.
- There has been discussion about a common assessment for all EPPs. The CPAST may be the new alternative.

SU EPP Advisory Council

- Ms. Kepner announce the results of a survey sent out in advance of this meeting.
 - **Stakeholder Involvement Activity**
 - P-12 Hosted Workshops for Teacher Candidates = 11/13 respondents @ ≥ 5
 - Top 4 Identified Topics to Consider: (1) Classroom Management/Learning Environments; (2) Instructional Best Practices; (3) Professional Skills & Dispositions; (4) SEL/Trauma-Informed Practices; (5) Educational Technology/Current Trends (AI)
 - Collaboration = PD Opportunities for P-12 Teachers @ SU = 11/13 respondents @ ≥ 5
 - Top 4 Identified Topics to Consider: (1) Classroom Management/Learning Environments; (2) Instructional Strategies/Student-Centered Learning; (3) Inclusive Practices/Special Needs Populations; (4) Educational Technology/Current Trends (AI)
 - Top 3 Identified Means of Delivery: (1) In Person at the District; (2) In Person at Shepherd; (3) Virtual. [NOTE: Most respondents indicated an openness to discussing various options, including hybrid possibilities.]

- Other P-12 Suggestions
 - Hosting mock interviews/interviewing events/job fairs during Residency; serving as guests or guest-lecturers; offering CEU opportunities with Shepherd over the summer; collaborating with SU EPP as needed to foster partnerships.
- Meeting Times / Format for 2026-2027
 - In response to stakeholder feedback, the EPPAC will continue to schedule advisory meetings on Wednesdays in the mid- to late-afternoon (at 3:00 or 4:00 pm) using a virtual format (Zoom or Teams) to maximize participation, accessibility, and sustained engagement during the 2026–2027 academic year.

Stakeholder Celebrations/Upcoming Events

- P-12 Stakeholder Spotlight and Announcements – Guests from the school systems talked about events in their districts.

SU EPP Program Updates –

- Ms. Kepner gave updates on EPP programs.
- Special Education Endorsement
 - Approved via SOE, EPPC, EPPAC, BOG / awaiting formal notice of approval EPPRB/WVBE (May 2026)*
 - Available as add-on to ALL undergraduate degrees – Beginning Fall 2026*
- Co-Teaching Training
 - A total of 350 SOE/EPP faculty (FT/Adjunct), teacher candidates, and P-12 mentors have successfully completed the training since its implementation in Fall 2024.
- Yearlong Residency – Update
 - As of the end of this semester (Spring 2026), a total of 84 candidates will have successfully completed the yearlong residency (ELED, SSED, ARED). Currently, 13 ELED candidates on track for Residency 2 for Fall 2026.
 - **All entering freshmen are now on the Residency Track (F24)** [WVBE Policy 5100]; **as of Fall 2027, all undergraduate candidates will experience a yearlong residency.** [MAT continue ST / one semester.]
 - All SOE/EPP candidates realizing increasingly higher summative in-classroom observational (STOT / TCDA) and final edTPA performance evaluations each semester. [See F25 Data Report sent via email and/or [SOE CAEP website](#).]
 - **Candidates in all undergraduate specializations will experience placements in two settings during their Residency experience (one per semester)** based on results of both EPPC and EPPAC feedback from Fall 2025.

Ms. Kepner adjourned the meeting at 5:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen S. James