

**Resolution to Discontinue Doctoral Degree Program in Career and Technical Education in the School of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences**

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Tech School of Education requests to discontinue the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in career and technical education and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in career and technical education degree program; and

**WHEREAS**, enrollment in the degree program has declined steadily since 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, during the course of the 2019/2020 State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) productivity review process, leadership in the School of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences realized the discontinuance of the degree program that had been initiated in 2014 was not completed in its entirety, and

**WHEREAS**, during 2020-2021, the school and college reinitiated and completed the process to discontinue the degree program; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no students currently enrolled in the degree program; and

**WHEREAS**, based on review of data and the declined interest in the degree program, the dean, school director, and university leadership determined to discontinue the degree;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ed.D and Ph.D. degrees in career and technical education in the School of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences be discontinued effective fall 2021 and the proposal forwarded to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Visitors approve the resolution discontinuing the Ed.D and Ph.D in career and technical education.

June 8, 2021

## Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

### Proposed Intent to Discontinue

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) requests to discontinue the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Career and Technical Education and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Career and Technical Education degree program (CIP code: 13.1320). The degree program is located in the School of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

### Background

The Ed.D./Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education degree program was initiated before the establishment of the Council of Higher Education. Since 2009, enrollment in the degree program has steadily declined. During the course of the 2013/2014 State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) productivity review process, the Ed.D./Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education degree program was identified as a program that was not meeting the standards set forth in the Virginia Public Higher Education Policy on Program Productivity. Although the program was granted an exemption based on aggregate data, administrators in the School of Education and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences determined that the program should be discontinued.

The discontinuation process began in 2014 and although documents were submitted into internal governance, the discontinuation process was not completed internally or externally. During the course of the 2019/2020 State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) productivity review process, leadership in the School of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences noted the inclusion of the program on the targeted list of programs, discovered the error from 2014, and reinitiated the discontinuation process.

### Rationale for Intent to Discontinue

Enrollment and degree completions for the Ed.D./Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education program have steadily declined since 2009 and it has become increasingly difficult to recruit new students into the program. Based on the data and information contained within the productivity review process, the declining enrollment, and input from the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the institution made the decision to close the degree program.

### Critical Shortage Area

The Ed.D./Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education degree program is not a critical shortage area.

### Teach-out Plan

There are no students currently enrolled in the Ed.D./Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education degree program.

### “Stopped Out” Students

There are currently no students who have “stopped out” of the program.