Each year the Department of Counselor Education is required by its accrediting body, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling Related Educational Programs (CACREP), to provide an annual report as part of the program review process. This report is designed to inform the department’s constituents (e.g. current students, program graduates, advisory board members, University community, prospective students, etc.) with an overview of the program, a report of the findings, and program changes for the past academic year.

Much gratitude to faculty, students, and administration for another successful academic year. Below are the updates on our department for the 2017-18 year, including curricular changes to further strengthen our program. Our most recent assessment plan with identified key performance indicators is also available for review on our webpage, (http://www.radford.edu/content/cehd/home/counselor-education/about/program-outcomes/chair-s-report.html) with current assessment results.

**Productivity of the Department of Counselor Education**

Our program is extremely viable and productive. We invest heavily in our students while they are under our supervision. We care deeply about their personal and professional counselor development and will continue to offer outstanding training experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom, that result in students who are sought after in the clinical field. Our student enrollment was stable throughout 2017-18 year. We will continue to improve and increase our recruitment efforts.

Ninety percent of our graduating students secure a job in the counseling field. We encourage collaborative work with students on co-authoring and co-presenting at conferences. Three students presented at the Virginia Counselors Association Graduate Student Conference this past year. Several students have been mentored by faculty and will either be co-presenting with faculty or presenting on their own in the upcoming Virginia Counselors Association’s annual convention.
Initiatives in Counselor Education

We continue to develop and strengthen our connections, collaborations, and partnerships with other Radford University programs. We currently have a partnership with the Music Therapy master’s program, and their students enroll and complete three of our counseling courses to fulfill requirements for their degree. We also participate in the Interprofessional Gerontology Graduate Certificate and Consortium. One of our courses is included in the certificate and two of our faculty participate in this collaboration. We regularly cooperate and support with the School of Social Work and Psychology departments each semester as we have students from those departments who take our courses. We work closely with the Career Services office in support of our COED 260 undergraduate course, titled “Seminar in Career Development.”

We continue our long-standing partnerships with schools, agencies, programs, and organizations in the community, including Radford City Schools, Montgomery County Schools, Pulaski County schools, Integrated Behavioral Health programs, and New River Community Services Board.

CACREP Update

As part of our on-going improvement to meet CACREP standards and enhance our program, we have implemented a comprehensive assessment plan. We are accredited through March 31, 2020. Additionally, we have updated our courses and assessment plan to reflect the 2016 standards. See document titled “Assessment Plan and Results”. Currently the department is actively engaged in preparing for our upcoming CACREP review and site-visit. A comprehensive report will be submitted to CACREP in the fall 2018 semester.

Curriculum Changes for 2017-18

This year was the first one where we implemented significant course sequence changes to the curriculum for both the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling concentration areas. This decision was made after reviewing the results of our exit surveys, our advisory board, and our internship seminar CAPS (counselor assessment of progress scale). Overall, the changes have been successful and the faculty believe it has strengthened the clinical preparation of our students. One particular change, moving COED 616: Cultural & Diversity Counseling to the first semester of first-year students, has provided a foundation in multicultural awareness and better understanding of diversity in counseling prior to students working with clients in their practicum in the second semester. Also, moving COED 650: Introduction to Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the second semester to the first semester and launching and offering our new course COED 671: Introduction to School Counseling in the first semester has had a positive impact on students’ awareness of each of the respective concentration areas. Also, to be noted, there were several changes in course pre-requisites as a result of the resequencing
of program courses.

In this past 2017-2018 academic year we implemented the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE) as the evaluation tool to provide an objective view of the knowledge level of our students. This standardized, national exam replaced our own previously used comprehensive exam. The CPCE assesses students’ competence of foundational, counseling-related knowledge. It is designed to assess students who have completed graduate-level courses; courses that are grounded primarily in a counseling curriculum. Our students performed extremely well as compared to the national data. See assessment plan for specific results.

Looking Ahead to 2018-19

We are anticipating an exciting new academic year. We have had one veteran School Counseling faculty member retire and are welcoming a new faculty member to provide leadership, structure, and innovation in the School Counseling concentration area. As in past years, the strengths of this program consist of highly trained and experienced faculty whose emphasis is in the areas of teaching, clinical supervision, and clinical practice. We continue to be strong stewards and advocates of our profession, and students continue to learn to be effective, competent, ethical, and compassionate counselors to serve the needs of clients throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.