

February 7, 2022

Dear Search Committee Members:

Please accept this letter as expression of my sincere interest and application for the position of Dean of the College of Community Innovation and Education at the University of Central Florida. I believe my successful administrative experience as an Interim Dean, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Unit Effectiveness, Assistant Department Chair, and Professor in the Department of Special Education, Early Childhood, and Prevention Science in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville has equipped me with the qualifications and characteristics that you seek for this position. I have demonstrated a well-balanced focus during my academic career in research, teaching, service, and administration. University's Central Florida's commitment to educate and empower leaders through innovation, strong partnerships, and transformational research excite me about this position and have motivated me to submit my application.

In my 3 years as Interim Dean here at the University of Louisville, I have accumulated a vast array of administrative accomplishments. A partial list of accomplishments include restructuring departments and administrative positions in the College to be more aligned with the University's strategic plan of becoming a great place to learn, work, and invest; building the most diverse administrative team in the College's history; effectively stewarding a \$22 million budget; increasing enrollment in both undergraduate and graduate programs; recruiting faculty of color; exceeding the development goals established by the University; and developing interdisciplinary programs and revising existing curriculum to respond to workforce and industry demands, such as The Louisville Teacher Residency. The College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville has over 230 staff and over 100 full time faculty.

While serving as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Unit Effectiveness for four years in the College of Education and Human Development, I provided oversight over all academic programs within the College, including educator preparation and human development programs (e.g., sport administration, exercise science, higher education administration, organizational leadership and learning, educator preparation, college student personnel, and mental health counseling). I successfully led and coordinated the College's joint Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)/Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB) re-accreditation visit. This visit was the first joint re-accreditation of its kind in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The visit involved coordination of 3 schools/colleges that engage in educator preparation across the University including Arts & Sciences, School of Music, and the School of Social Work. This coordination is evidence of my ability to communicate and collaborate with colleagues from diverse disciplines across campus and at the state level.

As the Interim Dean, it has been my responsibility to collaborate with academic advisors, department chairs, program coordinators, and faculty to improve the academic programs and student success models within the College. I have sought opportunities to create and sustain academic programs and services that support and enhance the student experience, as well as the academic mission of the College and University. Under my leadership, the College of Education and Human Development established one of the initial dual credit programs in the state of Kentucky as part of the "Teaching and Learning Pathway," which is designed to build a pipeline of future teachers within school districts. This collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education and school districts across the state has resulted in over 500 visiting high school students taking one or more courses at the University of Louisville. The ability to work collaboratively and effectively across programs, departments, colleges, and various offices across the university and in local schools is a particular strength of mine. In addition, I have the ability to establish working relationships at the regional, state, and national level as evidenced by my working relationships with several offices within the Kentucky Department of Education, including the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, a critical partner in Kentucky for work involving educator preparation programs, and my leadership in national initiatives such as the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) Center at the University of Florida.

My goal in securing a dean's position is to lead a college in delivering the highest quality academic programs, supporting and advancing the mission of the institution, and providing an excellent student experience. As a leader, establishing a clear vision and mission, supported by the faculty and staff of the College, is vital for success. My leadership philosophy is grounded in the establishment of collaborative relationships, within and outside of the institution, a commitment to supporting faculty and staff in providing high quality academic instruction and research innovation, and continuous evaluation and improvement for academic programs. In my current position, I have enhanced collaboration between central administration and the college to advocate for interdisciplinary programs and degrees. I have meaningfully engaged faculty, staff, and students in strengthening the culture and climate within the College based on multiple sources of data. I have provided faculty and staff with the necessary resources, support, and structures to engage in the areas of teaching, research, and service, while encouraging faculty to be innovative in program development.

In order to prepare students for future education-related careers in a globally competitive society, we are perpetually challenged to update, revitalize, and rethink approaches to academic programs. Strengthening the educational experiences of students by enhancing coursework including internships, externships, and practicum placements including international venues should be a priority for the College. Expanding opportunities meant to connect students to meaningful experiences that provide them with diverse perspectives is critical to ensure their success. If we do these things well, we not only steward students who are prepared to meet the ever-changing challenges of our world, but position ourselves to be more competitive in the increasingly challenging student recruitment process.

As a scholar, I have established a consistent record of nationally relevant scholarship in the area of academic instruction for students with disabilities. The contributions of my scholarship to the field of special education are evident in publications in national journals and presentations at prominent venues. Since I have been at the University of Louisville, I have obtained more than \$14 million in external funding. My successful record of external funding allows support and dissemination of my scholarship at the state, national, and international level. Of note, current grant funding that I have secured provides technical assistance to support the implementation of effective instructional practices in urban and rural settings across Kentucky.

University of Central Florida is seeking a leader to move the College of Community Innovation and Education toward the future, and I believe I have the knowledge, skills, and experience to lead the College on this upward trajectory. I am prepared to establish the collaborative relationships needed to provide successful leadership during this unprecedented and critical time in higher education. I have been fortunate to have a breadth of experiences in my administrative roles that will serve me well in future leadership positions. I bring enormous energy to the role of Dean and a passion to work with students. I will be happy to discuss goals that you have established for the Dean of the College of Community Innovation and Education and how my qualifications might match your needs.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Shearer Lingo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Amy Shearer Lingo

Interim Dean

Professor, Department of Special Education, Early Childhood, and Prevention Science