**Eastern Connecticut State University**

**Cultural Competence and Leadership Spelman Collaboration**

**November 8, 2016**

**Phone Meeting**

**1:00 to 2:00 pm**

Eastern Connecticut State University: Drs. Jacob Easley, Theresa Bouley and Sudha Swaminathan

Spelman College: Dr. Andrea Lewis

Dr. Lewis provided an overview of Spelman College and highlighted their diversity initiatives. Some of these are partnerships with Westfield State College (MA) and Young Harris College in North Georgia, which consist of virtual conferences and rotating Diversity Summits, respectively.

Dr. Easley provided an overview of the Eastern campus community including the diversity distribution of our faculty and students. The candidate population is majority white with an overall minority enrollment at the state level for in-service minority teachers, 7 - 8.3%.

Spelman has two majors and 8 certification areas. One major is ECE with certification, P-5; another is educational studies without certification, but includes internship in non-school settings. Besides ECE, Spelman offers certification in 7 secondary programs (6-12), and P-12 Spanish. Enrollment comprises 80% female and 20% male (from Morehouse College). The candidate population is 100% racial minority.

After discussion of our programs and the scheduling of courses, it was determined that a pilot of the *Shared Book Discussion* will be piloted, spring with the students in ECE 215 (Foundations in ECE) at Eastern and an equivalent foundations course at Spelman. The course instructor for Eastern will be Dr. Theresa Bouley and Dr. Shannon Sung for Spelman, under the leadership of Dr. Lewis (who will be on research leave spring 2017). At the end of the pilot, we would re-evaluate our goals and determine future expansions and other projects.

Dr. Easley suggested the following goals for this collaboration:

Goal 1: To have a cogent and thoughtful exchange of ideas between our campuses (both for faculty and students)

Goal 2: To increase students’ cultural competence, professionalism, and diverse perspectives

Goal 3: Students will be able to articulate the value of diversity and leadership within the profession

Dr. Bouley suggested adding cultural awareness to these goals.

Action steps:

1. Week after Thanksgiving: Drs. Bouley and Lewis will connect with Dr. Sung to determine criteria for selection of book(s) and plans for shared book discussions. They will name this project, fine-tune the goals and propose measurable outcomes.
2. Early December: All of us will meet again (phone meeting) to finalize goals.
3. Devise a plan to assess impact of the collaboration. How do our candidates learn about and apply their cultural competence? Pre- and post-surveys could be conducted to capture growth.
4. Dr. Easley will share a collaboration agreement for consideration.