

February 2013

Dear Missouri Educator:

Thank you for your interest in the Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA) program. Participation in MEGA activities provides educators with the opportunity to work with colleagues to improve the quality of our educator work force and ultimately improve the quality of education in Missouri's schools. We are currently seeking educators to serve on committees to assist in the development of assessments that prospective teachers must pass for certification. These committees will meet several times in the next two years. We encourage you to apply to participate in this important work. A link to the application form is at the bottom of this letter.

Program Information

In 2012, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) selected the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson to develop comprehensive, rigorous Missouri educator certification assessments aligned with Missouri and National Standards. These new educator assessments support the state's **Top 10 by 20** education reform plan for improving student achievement. Our goal is that by 2020 the state will be among the Top 10 states for student achievement.

The DESE and the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson are now developing assessments based on the Missouri educator standards. The MEGA will include an entry assessment for educator preparation, developmental (pedagogy) assessments, and content area assessments. The entry to education preparation program assessment will be operational in September 2013, and the pedagogy and content area assessments will be operational in September 2014.

Missouri Educator Involvement

The DESE is committed to involving Missouri educators in all aspects of the test development process to help ensure that educator candidates who successfully complete the certification assessments have demonstrated knowledge and skills essential for effective teaching in Missouri schools. The involvement of Missouri classroom teachers, school administrators, school curriculum specialists, and higher education faculty from diverse backgrounds is critical to the success of the MEGA program. Educators are needed to assist the DESE with many test development activities. Activities may include the following:

- Reviewing and validating test items;
- Piloting test items;
- Assisting with the recommendation of passing scores.

Please apply to participate in these activities by visiting www.morecruit.nesinc.com.

If you have questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to email Robyn Kaczowka at the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson at robyn.kaczowka@pearson.com.

Sincerely,

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education