May 12, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to share the news that Dr. Robin Minthorn, EdD Faculty Program Director, Director of Indigenous Education Initiatives, and an Associate Professor in the UWT School of Education, has accepted a position as Chair and Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies with the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education at the University of Oklahoma, one of the top R1s in the nation. Her last day at UWT is tentatively scheduled for August 2023 (still TBD).

Since joining UWT in August 2019, Dr. Minthorn has modeled active and reciprocal engagement with stakeholders at all levels, embodying exceptional leadership and service. For example, she revamped the EdD curriculum and conceptual framework in collaboration with Education and Nursing & Healthcare leadership colleagues in summer 2020 to center anti-racism and decolonizing pedagogies as core values; was instrumental in the formation of a dynamic partnership with Muckleshoot Tribal College, leading to the creation of EdD and MEd Muckleshoot cohorts; and co-founded the Muckleshoot Education Partnership Committee and the Native Indigenous Community Connections in Education (NICCE) Advisory Board. Other notable accomplishments include founding and leading UWT’s Indigenizing Pedagogy Institute, and service on various unit-level, campus-wide, and UW advisory boards, committees, councils, and task forces.

On a personal note, I have greatly appreciated learning from Dr. Minthorn and her family over the past 4 years. Her deep commitment to advancing access and justice for BIPOC and other minoritized communities, families, learners, and professionals, and her willingness to share her knowledge with all of us, is inspirational. While we will miss her greatly, I know she will be an outstanding leader, and will serve her future colleagues and students at the University of Oklahoma very well.

In terms of next steps, my office will soon start outreach with key stakeholders, including faculty and staff, to elicit feedback for the upcoming transition in terms of both interim and permanent leadership plans.

We will also let everyone know of a gathering later this summer 2023 to thank Dr. Minthorn for her exceptional service and to wish her well as she transitions to the University of Oklahoma.

Rachel Endo

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