As the recipient of the Jimmy and Glenny Lee Buquet Endowed Professorship, I developed the following four goals for the 2008-09 academic year: to provide a source of information on dyslexia to the public, to collaborate with professors in the college of education to better prepare teacher candidates to work with students with dyslexia, to develop a more teacher-friendly method of screening students for dyslexia in the K-12 schools, and to research LEAP pass/fail rates of 8th grade students and possible measures to prevent failures.

**Goal 1: Provide Information to the Public**
This year I began the annual “Unmasking Their Potential” conference at Nicholls State University as a means of providing up-to-date information on dyslexia and related learning disorders to parents, teachers, and students. A nationally known keynote speaker delivered a powerful message to the audience of 225 attendees. Afterward, attendees participated in four different breakout sessions where they were able to select topics of interest. A review of the conference evaluations reveal that there is indeed a need for events like this. The second annual conference is scheduled for January 2010.

In addition to hosting the conference, I have joined the Houma Rotary Club, the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, the Children’s Coalition for the Bayou Region, and the Junior Auxiliary of Houma in an effort to reach more people who in turn are able to reach out to others who may have an interest in dyslexia and related learning disorders. I have made numerous presentations for these and other organizations.

**Goal 2: Prepare Future Teachers**
In an effort to help prepare future teachers for working with students with dyslexia, I taught classes in three different sections of undergraduate education courses. In one class I presented the administration and scoring of DIBELS. In two other classes I presented characteristics of dyslexia and techniques for remediation. Throughout the month of July 2008, I worked closely with five candidates, training them to provide interventions for students scoring poorly on DIBELS, developing binders of intervention activities, and practicing DIBELS administration. In the fall, they were hired by the MAX Charter School to administer DIBELS to all students in grades 1-6.

**Goal 3: Develop Dyslexia Screening Process**
After years of training teachers to screen for dyslexia, I realized that many students were continuing to be un-identified because the screening process was
too cumbersome for many teachers and many teachers truly did not know what they were looking for. Therefore, I developed a streamlined process for screening students in the K-12 school setting in order to help schools comply with the requirements of State Department of Education’s Bulletin 1903. This process was shared with the statewide dyslexia task force and will be included in the revision of Bulletin 1903 this fall.

Goal 4: Prevent 8th Grade LEAP Failures

I am currently researching the need for and the effectiveness of phonics programs for middle school students, particularly those with dyslexia. A study is currently being done to find out the possibility of a correlation between 8th grade students’ decoding ability and their pass/fail rate on the LEAP test. If the correlation proves to be significant, results will be presented to the State Department of Education in an attempt to begin offering structured phonics classes to students deemed “at risk” prior to their failing the 8th grade LEAP, possibly during the summer before 8th grade as opposed to the current practice of offering remediation after the students fail. Future study will include investigating the effectiveness of phonics instruction on those students who receive it.

In the 2009-2010 academic year I plan on continuing to further develop each of the 4 goals described above.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Jimmy and Glenny Lee Buquet Endowed Professor. I will continue to strive for excellence in education for all students with dyslexia and related learning disorders.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Chauvin

Approved:

__________________________________________ Date
Dr. Susan Roark, Interim Dean
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__________________________________________ Date
Dr. Carroll Falcon
Provost/VPAA