June 12, 2012

Dear Dr. Barrilleaux,

Please see the attached annual report for the Jimmy and Glenny Lee Buquet Endowed Professorship – Dyslexia & Related Learning Disorders.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Chauvin

Approved:

Dr. J. Steven Welsh, Ph.D., Acting Dean
As the recipient of the Jimmy and Glenny Lee Buquet Endowed Professorship, I developed the following four goals for the 2011-12 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 continue to develop a more accurate, teacher-friendly method of screening students for dyslexia in Louisiana's K-12 schools; and to work more closely with the director of the MAX Charter School to further prepare teachers to teach students with dyslexia and related disorders. The goal there is to provide model classrooms where visitors can see firsthand how to successfully provide for the needs of this unique group of students.

**Goal 1: Provide Information to the Public**
This year we hosted our 4th 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 approximately 175 attendees. Afterward, attendees participated in three different breakout sessions where they were able to select topics of interest. We also held a dyslexia conference in Shreveport in collaboration with the Louisiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. Also, throughout the year, I held informal meetings/presentations in various parts of the state for parents. Names of parents to invite were given to me by school district personnel.

**Goal 2: Prepare Future Teachers**
In an effort to help prepare future teachers for working with students with dyslexia, I taught classes in several 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. I have also worked closely with teacher candidates to provide assistance to students enrolled at the MAX Charter School.

**Goal 3: Continue to Develop and Present Dyslexia Screening Process**
After years of training teachers to screen for dyslexia, I began to realize that many students were continuing to be un-identified because the screening process in place (Louisiana Literacy Profile) 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; the screening process is aligned with the state’s RTI plan. This process, which takes into account that teachers are already required to screen and progress monitor students using DIBELS, was shared with the statewide dyslexia task force and was introduced at two statewide trainings in Monroe and Thibodaux. Since the trainings took place, we have recognized that the screening specialists at many schools are having a difficult time re-delivering the presentations to their teachers. Therefore, I am working on simplifying the delivery of the professional development piece and making more of the materials available online.

**Goal 4: Greater Collaboration with MAX Charter School**
Throughout the 2011-2012 school year, I worked with the director of the MAX Charter School to deliver professional development to the teachers. I also participated as a teacher evaluator on the school’s DAT team as required by the State Department of Education. Serving as an evaluator gave me greater insight into the training needs of the teachers. This allowed me to provide more personalized assistance to the teachers and principal. Through my affiliation with the MAX Charter School, I have also become involved with another concerned group of parents of dyslexic children, and we are now working on getting another charter school similar to MAX opened in the Baton Rouge area.

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