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Good morning ladies and gentlemen. The opportunity to share with you today is appreciated.

York College of Pennsylvania, like other colleges and universities in the Commonwealth is currently seeking to revise our teacher preparation programs, so as to align them with the Pennsylvania Chapter 49.2 program regulations.

Currently, we offer teacher preparation programs in elementary education, dual elementary and special education, secondary certifications in biology, English, general science, math, and social studies, and a K-12 certification in music.

Our goal has always been, is now and always will be to provide programs that align with Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations, meet various certifying agency criteria, address the mission of York College, focus on the contemporary needs of local education agencies in Pennsylvania and states where our graduates enter professional practice, and above all to best serve the needs of our students. Accomplishing all of these while meeting the new requirements of Chapter 49.2 is indeed a challenge.

As a Department we began this process more than three years ago with a careful and thorough mapping of our curricula, coupled with a redesign of our format and syllabus development process. These initial steps, designed in anticipation of the release of Chapter 49.2, were undertaken so as to better position York College to meet the program revisions that were at that point anticipated.

With the release of Chapter 49.2, we then began in earnest a careful process of total program review, research into various alternatives for updating and revising our programs, and implementation of necessary and advisable changes. This process has involved all members of the Department, Chairs of various Departments at York College, subject area coordinators, a host of interested professors, several advisors boards and committees, local school district and intermediate unit representatives, and the administration of the College. Thus far ours has been a comprehensive initiative that has by necessity been long and at times tedious.

So as to support the efforts of our Department, while keeping all interested individuals and those with a vested interest engaged and informed, we have for the past year conducted regular meetings to share updates, apprise of changes and revisions to the Chapter 49.2 regulations, share input received from other colleges and universities, and provide individuals with the opportunity to question, suggest and share. As a result our process has progressed at a steady pace and has done so in what we see as a positive direction.

Throughout this process, we have had a positive and thorough level of support and guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. We have taken part in meetings and seminars scheduled and offered by the Department. In addition we have availed ourselves of the opportunity to meet individually with the Department's representatives to facilitate our efforts.

Specifically, we have met with Christina Baumer, High Education Program Manager, Joel Geary, High Education Associate, and Katherine Heeren, Higher Education Associate, Liaison all of the Division of Professional Education, Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality. As needed we have also worked with Clifton Edwards of the same Division. To the professional credit of these individuals, and the Department they represent, we have found this working relationship to be supportive, personable, professional and extremely helpful.

Our meetings are highly purposeful, clearly focused and we come away with the information needed to continue our work. The accessibility that we have found speaks clearly to the Department's desire to support colleges and universities in their efforts to make the changes mandated by Chapter 49.2, while providing a level of flexibility to support our efforts to do that which is best for our students, while preserving our institutional mission and providing excellent teachers for the 21st century.

Thank you!