

This transcript was exported on Oct 11, 2022 - view latest version [here](#).

Speaker 1 ([00:00](#)):

Five, four, three, two, one, zero. All engines running. Lift off. We have a lift off.

Speaker 2 ([00:27](#)):

Educationality.

Monica Mobley ([00:27](#)):

Hello and welcome to Educationality, where we explore all things education. I'm your host, Monica Mobley, and I am joined today by my co-host, Gia Taylor. And she is going to be talking to us today about the ArPEP program, which is an alternative licensure pathway.

Monica Mobley ([00:41](#)):

So thank you, Gia, for giving us some time to address this important issue with the teacher shortage. We know this is something that many of our administrators, and hopefully potentially people in our community, will be interested in.

Gia Taylor ([00:52](#)):

Yes, I'm so glad to talk about it. This is something I'm very passionate about and very excited for. This is the first time in North Central Co-op's history that we have offered this program. So it's been a learning experience for us all, but that's been a fun one.

Monica Mobley ([01:10](#)):

So tell us a little bit about the ArPEP program. What is it, how do teachers get involved in it, and what is sort of the purpose? What are the goals of the program?

Gia Taylor ([01:18](#)):

The ArPEP program was formally known as Apple, so some people may be familiar with that. It's now called ArPEP, which is the Arkansas Professional Educator Pathway, and it is for those who have a bachelor's degree in another area, but may just have realized that their true calling was education, those career changers or those who just may not have been pointed in the education direction on the front end.

Gia Taylor ([01:45](#)):

So those people who are interested in becoming educators, they take the praxis in the area that they are going to teach, and once they pass that praxis, they are able to apply to be part of the ArPEP program through the DESE, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, that's who reviews their applications and admits them, and then they choose their site from there.

Gia Taylor ([02:08](#)):

So now North Central is a site and they learn all of the things those in the traditional education pathways would learn. We focus on classroom management, lesson planning, engagement strategies for students, and many more topics.

Monica Mobley ([02:25](#)):

And that's all really important stuff for students coming in to have that support piece, or for new teachers coming in because it's not just teaching the subject area, there is a lot that actually happens in the classroom. The wisdom of people that have been in education for a while can certainly mentor and help those participants.

Monica Mobley ([02:46](#)):

So what would the ArPEP program kind of look like in terms of how's it laid out? What would the expectations for the candidate be?

Gia Taylor ([02:52](#)):

Well, generally there are 10 to 12 days in the summer that are face to face, that are kind of the bootcamp to really get them going before they are actually in their classroom. And then from there, they meet five to seven Saturdays throughout the school year, because their expectation is that they're in a classroom, so we certainly don't want to take them from the classroom. So we have those Saturday sessions for them. And that is all the learning you talked about, the art of teaching, the pedagogy pieces. So, it's not enough to just know your content, it's those pedagogical pieces where we are working with our students and making sure that not only are we just teaching, but that the students are learning, and we're presenting the concepts in a way that are accessible for them all.

Gia Taylor ([03:38](#)):

So we focus on those things throughout that first year. The second year is much of the same schedule, but the focus mainly for the year two is the edTPA portfolio. That is the assessment through Pearson that determines their readiness to transition from that provisional to that standard license. So the good news is, if for some reason a candidate doesn't get in the summertime, we always have late cohorts that begin throughout the year so that we can catch those late hires.

Gia Taylor ([04:09](#)):

So we've got one in September and we've also got another one starting in January. So even though we get a bulk of our boot camp done in the summer, we really are kind of a revolving door. We have that open enrollment all throughout the year so that we can make sure everyone gets on board with us.

Monica Mobley ([04:28](#)):

That's great, especially since a lot of teachers do start at different times throughout the year, just for different reasons that schools have lost people and are trying to identify people that can take those positions.

Monica Mobley ([04:38](#)):

Gia, what are the requirements for someone to get into the ArPEP program?

Gia Taylor ([04:42](#)):

So the requirements are that you have a bachelor's degree, doesn't matter what area it's in, but that you have a bachelor's degree, that you have passed the praxis in the area that you're going to be teaching,

This transcript was exported on Oct 11, 2022 - view latest version [here](#).

that you have a job, that you're hired by a school district, but even that's not a major deterrent because you can still begin the program and attend up to a certain point.

Gia Taylor ([05:06](#)):

And then if you still haven't been hired by a school district, you'll be placed on hold until you do have a job, and then you can just pick up where you left off. You also have to pass a background check, fill out that application for DESE, and I believe it requires some letters of recommendation, and things like that.

Monica Mobley ([05:24](#)):

Well, I think that gives us a pretty good overview of the ArPEP program. We're really excited about it. Very excited to have it here at North Central. Everyone that's interested in listening, you'd be in good hands here with Gia Taylor, she is an expert at what she does. And our ArPEP candidates that we have so far, we've been really excited to see that. This is providing an opportunity for some good people to get into the classroom.

Gia Taylor ([05:44](#)):

I've been very impressed with our candidate. They have a true love of learning and a true love of children. They are committed to doing the very best they can for the kids in Arkansas.

Monica Mobley ([05:57](#)):

Well thank you so much, Gia.

Monica Mobley ([05:59](#)):

And if you want to get in touch with us, you can look on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Thank you all.

Gia Taylor ([06:06](#)):

Thank you.

Speaker 1 ([06:06](#)):

Five, four, three, two, one, zero. All engines running. Lift off. We have a lift off.

Speaker 2 ([06:07](#)):

Educationality.