



Arkansas Department of Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Johnny Key
Commissioner

November 16, 2016

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Pete Yeager
National Director, Teacher Licensure and Certification
Educational Testing Service
Rosedale Road, MS 51-L
Princeton, NJ 08541

Dear Mr. Yeager,

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) extends its formal appreciation for Educational Testing Service (ETS) beginning the process of developing a multi-state Praxis II exam for Computer Science.

As a representative on your Praxis Computer Science National Advisory Committee (NAC), I came away with a greater understanding and respect for the process in which ETS engages when developing a Praxis II assessment. ETS should be commended for the selection of the committee members. This diverse group of experts from a variety of backgrounds was extremely knowledgeable and all demonstrated a passion for and commitment to furthering computer science education. The ETS facilitators led the group extremely well. They were able to find and conduct the meeting within that instinctive and undefined balance of letting the committee produce its own work while ensuring progress continues in an efficient and effective manner.

I realize that with the limited number of test takers in computer science over the past year that ETS is taking an economic risk on the development of this assessment. However, I also believe that once multi-state representatives develop an assessment using national computer science community resources (i.e., CSTA 2016 Standards, K-12 Computer Science Framework), additional states will be better positioned to clarify and formalize their computer science education licensure process, as Arkansas did in 2015.

Thank you again for being responsive to this request that ADE and I have personally made multiple times over the past year. It demonstrates ETS's commitment to its clients and more importantly to ensuring that teacher content knowledge is properly and adequately assessed. I look forward to continuing my support of the NAC and remain enthusiastic about the final assessment.

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Sincerely,

Anthony A. Owen
Director; Computer Science Education

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Opportunity
Employer*