

CINewsNow.com
 WEEK HOI-19 abc

Search articles, v

NEWS WEATHER SPORTS FEATURES YOUR HEALTH VIDEO GOOD COMPANY

[Top Stories](#) [Tornado 2013](#) [US / World](#) [Elections](#) [Offbeat News](#) [Political](#) [IL River Road](#) [Interviews](#)

Top Stories in Top Stories

New EDC CEO implements plan to drive economic development in Central Illinois

Bright Side: Toys for Tots teams up for softball tournament

News » Top Stories

Email this article Print this article Tweet Like 19 +1 0

Education students at Bradley University get a unique opportunity

By Katherine Tellez
 September 3, 2014

Updated Sep 4, 2014 at 1:32 PM CDT

PEORIA, Ill. -- Education majors at Bradley University will have a leg up when they graduate.

The university is revising the curriculum for all education majors, to better prepare students for what the workforce is looking for.

News Now Digital Daily - subscribe to our daily newsletter

[Click here to sign up for local offers.](#)



It's part of state mandated changes after the Illinois State Board of Education revised its rules.

"It was an occasion where we could reflect on our teacher education program and ensure what we're doing has currency so it reflects what's going on out there in the elementary classroom," said Chair of the Department of Teacher Education, Dean Cantu. "And ensure that our curriculum is aligned with the expectations relative to elementary teachers teaching common core."

While all colleges and universities will have to implement these changes there is one thing that's unique to the curriculum changes at Bradley University.

Every student who graduates with an elementary education degree will have an English as a Second Language endorsement -- something Bradley hasn't offered before now.

"Our elementary program has this endorsement embedded in it. And no other school at all, that have teacher training programs, in the State of Illinois have it," said Associate Professor in the Department of Teacher Education, Cecile Arquette. "So it's incredibly attractive."

Illinois ranks fifth in population of Hispanic students. Professors at Bradley University say embedding the ESL endorsement into a students degree is more important now than ever.

"It's absolutely vital for teachers now to be able to have the skills to feel confident and be able to teach students that do not speak English well and to help them move forward as they go through our education system," Arquette said.

The elementary education changes will take effect in the fall of 2015.

<http://www.cinewsnow.com/news/local/Education-students-at-Bradley-University-get-a-unique-opportunity-273870511.html?vid=a>