July 2023

As part of the University of St. Francis community, it has been a privilege to work with Dr. Kevin Spicer. Dr. Spicer has been instrumental in creating a sequence of graduate online English content courses for Illinois secondary education teachers.

As the College of Education Director of Advanced Programs/REAL and Program Coordinator for the Master of Science Teaching and Learning degree, it is imperative that I work with a team of colleagues who can determine the professional development needs of our K-12 educators and then create the plan to meet these needs. Dr. Spicer has been an integral part of the plan to enable USF to offer graduate-level English classes required to assist high school educators in achieving their professional goals to meet the growing educational needs of Illinois high school students.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) created a variety of paths for Illinois secondary education teachers to be able to offer dual credit English courses at their local high schools. The English courses that the USF English Department offer through our REAL program have provided area English teachers with the opportunity to complete a sequence of courses making them eligible to be hired by their local junior colleges as high school dual credit teachers or to earn the ISBE Dual Credit Endorsement. This is an outstanding accomplishment.

During the time that I have worked with Dr. Spicer, I have been very impressed with his attention to detail and his timely responses to communications. His genuine desire to collaborate and create effective learning experiences for candidates are valued by the College of Education.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information on Dr. Spicer’s behalf.

Sincerely,

Melissa M. Rolinitis  
Director of Advanced Programs/REAL

College of Education