August 2020

Dear Students:

Welcome back to campus! As the fall semester gets underway, I want to take this opportunity to let you know about a learning initiative that we have instituted for all of our educator preparation programs. A part of our teacher preparation includes the use of LiveText by Watermark, an electronic portfolio and accreditation management system. The College uses LiveText by Watermark to support and document candidate growth.

An active subscription to LiveText by Watermark is a requirement for the courses that comprise your professional education curriculum. The cost of membership is $139. LiveText may be purchased in the University Bookstore in person or on the LiveText by Watermark website (www.livetext.com). In the bookstore, it is listed under course name EDUC-EDUC. Once purchased, the account is good for up to seven years. Because your LiveText by Watermark membership will last several years after program completion, you will be able to use your electronic LiveText portfolio in the job seeking process.

As you progress through your program, you will find that LiveText by Watermark allows you to work more efficiently, communicate effortlessly, and grow academically. Benefits for students include:

- *Unlimited* digital storage accessible via the web (which eliminates the need to purchase external jump drives);
- Ability to create professional electronic portfolios that can be easily shared;
- Ability to submit major assignments and receive feedback electronically;
- Resources, including a rubric maker, searchable standards, assignment templates, and more; and, a
- Personal file manager, which allows you to upload and manage external files, such as MS Office, PDF, videos, pictures, and text documents – and which includes labeling capabilities to make document management easy.

In addition to the student benefits listed above, LiveText by Watermark will enable the program faculty to collect and analyze course assignments and assessment data more quickly and efficiently. LiveText by Watermark also will allow the College to access teacher candidate data for accreditation needs and to address program improvement issues in a timely manner.

We are excited about the upcoming academic year, and look forward to working with you as we continue to improve your educational experience in the College of Education. If you have questions or would like additional information about LiveText by Watermark, feel free to contact Dr. Kathy Angeletti, Assistant Dean and Executive Director of Teacher Education (kangel@umd.edu) or the College's Assessment Office (coe-livetext@umd.edu).

Sincerely,

Jennifer King Rice, Ph.D.
Dean