Dear Partners in Education:

East Carolina University has recently submitted all of its revisioned initial teacher licensure programs and Master of School Administration program to the Department of Public Instruction and State Board of Education for program approval. A special thank you goes to all of our faculty who put in many hours rethinking and restructuring our undergraduate, Master of Arts in Teaching, and Master of School Administration programs to meet new Professional Standards, content standards, and incorporate 21st Century Skills and formative assessments. A special thank you also goes to our public school partners who were part of our revisioning process. Your input is critical to our programs, particularly in the areas of clinical practice and assessment.

Revisioning was a huge task, but we really do see it as a first step in the right direction as we continue to ensure ECU professional education graduates are able to improve student achievement in public schools. As a continuation of our revisioning processes, ECU applied for and received an $8,900,000.00 Teacher Quality Partnership Grant from the US Department of Education to work with Pitt County and Greene County School Systems to improve pre-service candidates’ abilities to positively affect student achievement using case studies, video vignettes, and purposefully embedded clinical practices. Also, the grant will allow for ECU and the two school systems to work together to improve student achievement outcomes with current teachers through professional development and innovative induction programs. In the nation, 172 proposals were submitted, 28 were funded, and ECU was the only North Carolina institution to receive one. We are excited about how this work will change the way we train teachers for the 21st Century! Look for more news on this grant in forthcoming newsletters.

Many thanks for all you do each day.

Sincerely,

Vivian Martin Covington, Director
Office of Teacher Education

From the Director's Desk

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News from the ECU Campus

2009 ECU Gifted Education Conference

The third annual ECU Gifted Education Conference was held on September 17, 2009 at the Murphy Center in Greenville. The theme this year was “Thinking Outside the Bubble: Advocating for and Inspiring Growth.” There were over 160 educators who attended. The conference featured a virtual keynote by Dr. Joseph Renzulli, a nationally recognized gifted education speaker from the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development. Sneha-Shah-Coltrane shared the State-of-the-State keynote address and the new AIG standards. Concurrent breakout sessions were presented by John Lemmon, Linda Robinson, Rick Courtright, Sharon Robinson, and Todd Finley. We want to thank Embarq and Pearson Publishing for their generous sponsorships. The Gifted Education Conference at ECU was sponsored by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education at East Carolina University. Co-directors of this event were Brian Houland, Katie O’Connor and Elizabeth Fogarty. We hope to see you next September!
Opportunity for K-12 AIG Licensure!

Would you like to obtain K-12 AIG (Academically/Intellectually Gifted) licensure? This can be accomplished by taking 4 graduate-level courses online (with only 2 weeks face-to-face) at East Carolina University. The following courses are offered in this sequence and will begin in July 2010:

- SPED 6104: Introduction to Gifted Education (2nd Summer Session 2010)
- SPED 6401: Methods & Materials in Gifted Education (Fall 2010)
- SPED 6402: Differentiated Curriculum for the Gifted (Spring 2011)
- SPED 6403: Practicum in Gifted Education (2nd Summer Session 2011)

Intent Forms are being accepted now. If you are interested in getting this licensure and would like to know how these four graduate courses can count toward a Masters degree, contact Dr. Katie O’Connor at oconnork@ecu.edu or by calling 252-328-5323.
Effective Partnership for Practicum Placements

The Office of Clinical Experiences (OCE) has been busy at work coordinating over two thousand practicum placements. East Carolina University teacher education students are placed in over 400 schools in over 80 school systems in North Carolina. Practicum placements are a team effort. It is essential that OCE, the faculty in the College of Education, and the principals and teachers in all of the school systems we partner with work together to make the practicum experience successful for our future teachers.

The faculty who teach courses requiring a practicum must submit student placement requests to OCE. The Practicum Placement Procedures form was created to give faculty a step-by-step guide to the practicum placement process. It is extremely important to remember that all placement requests must come through OCE. Students and faculty should not solicit their own practicum placements. After much discussion and feedback from school system liaisons and principals, it was decided that all practicum placement requests should come from a centralized location. OCE coordinates the requests and gets the approval from principals and/or teachers. This makes the communication more uniform and allows OCE to keep an accurate record of the placements. The data collected in OCE is used to verify clinical practice and diversity of placements for program approval from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. It is also used for national accreditation. Once placements have been approved at the requested schools, OCE notifies the faculty. Students should be notified of the approval after OCE contacts the faculty.

Principals and teachers in our partnering schools play an important role in ensuring the practicum will go smoothly and that students will gain the greatest benefit from the experience. Requests are sent directly to the schools or to a liaison in the school system central office. Responses to the requests need to be sent back to OCE in a timely manner. If a school will not be able to host a student, OCE will need to proceed with making an alternate request. Once a principal and/or a teacher have agreed to host a practicum student, there are some steps that can be taken to prepare for the student.

One suggestion to help with organization is to create a practicum file to keep documentation of the placement requests that have been approved. Also, communication between principals and teachers is important. Principals and teachers should work together to be ready to host practicum students. Please be prepared when the students contact you. Students are to contact the principal and/or the assigned teacher once OCE has received approval for the placement. Let the front office staff know that these students will be calling. When students are told there is no record of their placement at the school, it sends a negative message to the student. The students are already very anxious about going to a school to complete their work and when schools appear unprepared and unwelcoming, unnecessary stress is added. Students also have assignments to be completed and will need to get started right away.

OCE values the work you do to host teacher education students and to teach them valuable lessons as they prepare to enter the field of teaching. Please continue to support our future teachers. Contact OCE at any time you have a question or concern regarding practicum placements.

News from Wachovia Partnership East

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF VIRTUAL COHORT STUDENTS FROM WACHOVIA PARTNERSHIP EAST

The Virtual Consortium of East Carolina University’s Wachovia Partnership East is pleased to announce its first graduating class. This past summer, twelve students who completed their coursework received Bachelor of Science degrees in Special Education-General Curriculum from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. These students began their program in spring 2007 and embarked upon their teaching careers this fall.

In response to the need for more teachers in the region and in high need areas like special education, the East Carolina University College of Education with support from the Wachovia Foundation established Wachovia Partnership East to recruit local candidates who are interested in teaching. Through the virtual hub site housed at Pitt Community College, ECU delivers the coursework needed to complete education degrees online. The Virtual Consortium serves students across the state and provides access to degree completion programs in the areas of elementary, special and middle grades education.

The twelve students of the 2009 graduating class began their journey to a bachelor’s degree by completing freshman and sophomore level courses at North Carolina community colleges across the state before entering Wachovia Partnership East as East Carolina University Juniors in 2007. The students will attend the University Commencement Ceremony in December 2009. The cohort of virtual special education students is unique in that they are the first to graduate after receiving all their degree completion related coursework through online delivery.
Carteret County Schools

In Room 411 of Morehead City Primary School, one never knows whooooo or what will be seen! Ms. Tiffany Carey, a teaching intern from East Carolina University has proven that. Ms. Carey, in the final weeks of her internship, has been teaching a thematic unit about owls to a second grade class. Following a lesson about owls and their extraordinary ability to hunt, Ms. Carey shocked her students by having a life-size replica of a barn owl, complete with light up eyes, swoop on a zip line from the back of the room to the front! Talk about capturing the attention of your students! Ms. Carey and her mother constructed the owl from simple household items including a plastic lemonade bottle, felt, slats from recycled mini blinds, a push light, and fake feathers. Once the students recovered from the shock of seeing the “flying” owl, they participated in an activity involving squeaky “mice” using echolocation. As part of the thematic unit, Ms. Carey developed “stations” through which students rotated during their literacy block of time. These stations included listening to Owl Moon by Jane Yolen and answering various levels of questions related to the story, researching about a student-chosen species of owl and making a facts poster, making a Moon Pie owl and writing step-by-step directions using transition words, participating in a virtual owl pellet dissection, and a teacher directed station involving making a main idea mobile after reading a non-fiction paragraph about owls. With all of these engaging activities, whoooooo knows…maybe some of the students will grow up to be a teacher like Ms. Carey!

Submitted by:
Martha Ruffin
Clinical Teacher
Morehead City Primary School

Greene County Schools

On Friday, October 9, 2009, the Hookerton Fire and EMS brought the fire safety/smoke house to the Pre-K Center. They took each class through the smoke house and taught them the dangers of being in a house on fire. Each child was able to go low through the smoke, and come out safely. This went along with a week long discussion about fire safety which my intern, Ms. Cedonna Barrett and myself lead. This was a fun way to end fire safety week.

Submitted by:
Mary Nell Morris
Clinical Teacher
Pre-K Center

Johnston County Schools

NCCAT CONNECTIONS PARTICIPANTS ATTEND WEEKEND SEMINAR IN CULLOWHEE, NC

Twenty-four first and second year teachers from Johnston County Schools attended NCCAT Connections in Cullowhee, NC, the weekend, Oct. 9 – 11. NCCAT Connections is designed to help new teachers develop strong foundations in classroom management and instructional practices and has a strong track record of success with new teachers in Johnston County Schools. The weekend seminar focused on working with students and families from poverty, and builds on the monthly sessions that the participants attend in Johnston County during the school year.

In addition to participating in sessions facilitated by NCCAT staff members, participants had an opportunity to work with other beginning teachers from Hertford County Schools. Teachers from both districts benefited from the positive interaction, sharing of ideas and support and understanding offered by their peers.

The participants, representing elementary, middle and high school, teach a wide range of subjects and grade levels across Johnston County. As one middle school teacher shares, “I spent time getting to know other people who work in all different grades in a wide variety of different schools all over the county. Hearing their personal stories allowed me to compare what I am doing in my classroom to what they are doing in their classrooms. We were able to share stories, laughs, and strategies to help each of us become better teachers.”

One participant, a 4th grade teacher, sees the benefit of NCCAT for her students and school. “I learned a great deal about how to be a more effective teacher. I know I am going to take a lot of what I learned back to my classroom to be that much better (of a teacher) for my students. I also hope to share my weekend and what I learned with the other teachers at my school.”

NCCAT Connections continues to provide the teachers of Johnston County a valuable opportunity to develop their teaching skills!!

Onslow County Schools

NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED FOR HIGH GRADUATION RATES

White Oak High School was recognized for being in the top two highest rates of high school graduation in North Carolina for a cohort size of 200-299 at a ceremony in Raleigh. This is the second year that State Superintendent June Atkinson has held the special recognition ceremony to highlight the importance of high school graduation and the graduation success stories in North Carolina.

“North Carolina must redouble its efforts to keep students in school...
and on track for high school graduation,” said State Superintendent Atkinson. “A high school diploma is a basic accomplishment for anyone entering the workforce and an essential stepping stone to a community college or university. The schools and districts we have honored today show us that public schools can have high graduation rates, and when they do, students are the winners.”

School districts and schools were recognized in three categories, Top Ten School Districts, 100% Club for High School Graduation Rate, and Top Two Schools by Cohort Rate. In each case, the rates are the four-year cohort graduation rate. This rate refers to the percentage of students who graduate from high school in four years or less. The rates are for the students who were identified as being in the graduating class of 2009. White Oak High School’s Cohort Graduation Rate for 2008-09 was 90 percent.

North Carolina overall has a statewide graduation rate of 71.7 percent. For specific groups of students this rate is even lower. In particular, male students and students who are Native American, black, Hispanic, economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient or with disabilities have average graduation rates that are lower than the state average. The state graduation rate will not be fully addressed unless all of these groups’ performance is addressed.

Atkinson said sending the message to students that education is a foundation for their future is only one part of the equation. Research shows that students benefit from smaller learning environments, opportunities to build relationships with their teachers, rigorous and focused academics and support to help them overcome setbacks.

*News Release from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction October 12, 2009

**Pitt County Schools**

**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY/PITT COUNTY SCHOOLS GRANT**

Pitt County Schools is one of the districts that will benefit from the federal Department of Education grant received by East Carolina University College of Education. The grant was awarded to improve teacher preparation, teacher residency programs and to boost support for new and prospective teachers.

The grant will fund a partnership between the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, Pitt County Schools, and Greene County Schools. The grant will improve student academic achievement by strengthening teacher preparation and helping the LEA attract and train potential educators from a wide-range of professional backgrounds.

**EDUCATORS ATTEND 4TH ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL**

Pitt County Schools held its 4th Annual Technology Festival on Friday, August 14, 2009, at South Central High School. The theme for this year’s event was “Dive in and Make a Difference with Tools for the 21st Century Learner.” More than 260 teachers, teacher assistants, administrators and media coordinators were in attendance.

The purpose of the Technology Festival is to expose teachers to some of the latest technology that promotes 21st Century Learning and to train teachers to use the current technology that is already available to them in our district.

“In both instances, sessions are available to train teachers with technology tools that will engage students and promote learning in non-traditional formats but yield the same or even better results,” commented Tim DeCresie, Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Media Services for Pitt County Schools.

**CLINICAL TEACHERS**

Karen Klaich, NBCT and clinical teacher, from South Central High School was appointed to serve on the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust for a two year term. Glenda Harris, NBCT and clinical teacher, from W. H. Robinson Elementary School has been selected as the 2009 Outstanding Elementary School Mathematics Teacher for Pitt County Schools.

**BEGINNING TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN ECU’S TOOLBOX TUESDAYS**

The September 29, 2009, Teacher Toolbox Tuesday workshop for clinical interns was entitled What You Really Want to Know About the First Years of Teaching. Following a presentation on the Beginning Teacher Support Program by Sheridan Holstein, BTSP Coordinator, five beginning teachers served on a panel presenting their insights about the realities within the teaching field. Beginning teachers who participated were: Jason Pugh, Farmville Middle; Shaquanna Stevens, South Central HS; Kelin Haulsee, Pactolus; Kimberly Harry, Gritton; and Steve Timmons, D. H. Conley HS.

**SENIOR I INTERNS AT SOUTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Two of the Senior I interns at South Central HS recently spoke with Sheridan Holstein regarding their internship.

Jason Wallace is an intern in Charetta Walls English class. Jason said that he had been observing Mrs. Walls and focusing on her class management practices; especially, teacher movement and transitions. He stated Mrs. Walls has a good speaking voice for lecture and monitoring groups. Jason has found working on his first lesson to teach very exciting. He said he was making sure everything was ready and knew that over time he would develop his own teaching style.

Melissa Orr, Teaching Fellow and Senior I intern in Maurice Medley’s band class, is finding her internship to be a lot of fun. “The liberty Mr. Medley is giving me is wonderful. I don’t go one day without working with students.” She has found the difference between marching band and concert ensembles involves different styles of teaching. Melissa feels she has absolutely made the right decision to become a teacher. While she stated that she had some questions about her decision a year ago, she can now say “two-three weeks into doing this and I know I’m right where I need to be.”
CHECK IT OUT…..

The Journal of Curriculum and Instruction (JoCI) is a peer-reviewed, open access journal that provides a forum for the dissemination of articles focused on research, practice, and related issues relevant to teaching and learning in the preK-12 environment. The theme for this issue is "Transformative Leadership" and features guest editor James O. McDowelle, East Carolina University.

JoCI was launched by the Department of C & I in July 2007. Since then the journal has been accessed 23,733 times. These visits have come from 139 countries and territories on every continent across the world. Outside the United States, the highest numbers of visits to the journal have come from Romania, Malaysia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The 23,733 visits to this electronic journal have included 16,626 different individuals and represent 118,568 times articles have been accessed. Of the 23,733 visits to JoCI, 70% were new visitors and 30% were returning visitors. During the past 12 months there were 11,117 visits with 75% being new visitors and 25% returning visitors. These statistics taken from the data generated within the Open Journal System software used to publish this journal and the Google Analytics tag on the journal website demonstrate that this open-access journal has a broad and growing readership.

The current issue is available at www.joci.ecu.edu
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

College of Education Job Fair  
Tuesday, February 23, 2010  
9:00am-12:00pm  
Greenville Convention Center

The Spring 2010 College of Education Job Fair is a mandatory seminar for all Senior II interns. In past years school systems throughout North Carolina have participated in the Job Fair, as well as school districts from Virginia, Maryland, and Florida.

28th Annual Mary Lois Staton  
Reading/Language Arts Conference  
Tuesday, February 16, 2010  
1:00-6:00pm  
East Carolina University Murphy Center  
Greenville, NC

The Mary Lois Staton Reading/Language Arts Conference annually brings national, regional, and local speakers on current literacy education issues to the one-day conference in Greenville, North Carolina. The keynote speaker will be Becky Bone, National Literacy Consultant. A variety of concurrent sessions will be presented for educators in pre-K through high school. For more information, visit the conference website http://www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/ci/reading/mls/index.cfm. Please join us!

Clinical Teacher Conference  
Wednesday, March 24, 2010  
Greenville Hilton

Senior II Interns will substitute for the clinical teacher, where appropriate and endorsed by the school system.

Alumni Spotlight

East Carolina University graduate, Vann Pennell, was named the 2009 North Carolina Wachovia Principal of the Year. Mr. Pennell serves as principal at South Brunswick High School in Southport, NC. He received a B.S. degree in Health and Physical Education 1977. Mr. Pennell went on to receive an M.A.Ed. degree in 1981 and an Ed.S. degree in 1992.

Did you know?......

PBS has launched the new Teachers Site http://www.pbs.org/teachers/

PBS Teachers is the national Web destination for preK-12 educators to access PBS’ educational services and a searchable database of more than 9,000 free local and national standards-based teaching activities, lesson plans, on-demand video assets, interactive games, and simulations.
We Want to Hear from You

Alumni, we want to be informed of professional accomplishments you have made since graduation. If you have received a professional award or honor, a promotion, or a new job, contributed to your community in a significant way, or if you have experienced a personal triumph, please drop us a line at the College of Education so we can share that news with fellow alumni and the readership of Clinical Schools Network News. Simply complete the form and return it to the address below, or e-mail your information to williamsonki@ecu.edu.

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Mail this form to Office of Clinical Experiences, College of Education, East Carolina University, 110 Speight Building, Greenville, NC 27858-4353