Preparing Educators in the Second Century
As the College of Education enters the second century of preparing professional educators, ECU continues to lead the state in the production of new education professionals. The College of Education had an increase of 45% in the number of practica placements and a 46% increase in the number of student teachers from fall 2000 to spring 2008. ECU education graduates have the highest employment rate in North Carolina School Systems.

Re-visioning Teacher Education
The teacher education faculty have been actively involved in re-visioning how future teachers are prepared to serve students in 21st century schools. The purpose of the revisioning is to strengthen teacher education programs by examining the alignment of program courses and experiences with national, state and professional standards. Included in this review is the alignment with newly adopted North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards (NCPTS), the North Carolina State Board of Education’s Future Ready Students: Goals for the 21st Century and the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The revisioning process began in November with a Provost’s Council Forum on the NCPTS. The Provost’s Council on Teacher Education consists of faculty and administration from all schools/colleges in the university that support teacher education programs.

Awards and Recognitions
The Library Science Program in the Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology was named in the nation’s top ten by US News and World Report in 2008.

Other College of Education faculty members were also recognized in 2008. Dr. Sid Rachlin, Professor, in the Department of Mathematics and Science Education, was awarded one of the university’s Teacher/Scholar Awards. And, Dr. Louis Warren, Professor, in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, received the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award.

The North Carolina Distance Learning Association (NCDLA) Award Committee awarded eleven faculty members, known as the Library Science and Technology Education Podcast Research Group, the 2008 NCDLA Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching award. The award recognizes their outstanding accomplishments in the field of distance education.

The ECU BB&T Center for Leadership Development awarded $114,980 in grants to advance student leadership endeavors at the University.

The Leadership Preparation Program in the Department of Educational Leadership received confirmation of National Recognition by the ELCC (Educational Leadership Constituent Council). Currently ECU is the only program in North Carolina to receive and maintain ELCC National Recognition.

Leadership Gift
In March 2008, the College of Education received a leadership gift as part of the East Carolina University’s Second Century Campaign. Former state Senator Thomas F. Taft and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Doster Taft, a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Science Education in the College of Education, made a generous contribution to provide $1.25 million to fund mathematics and science education. With a matching gift from the C.D. Spangler Foundation and the UNC system, the Tafts’ donation will fund a distinguished professorship for science education and endow a scholarship fund for students studying mathematics education and science education.

Wachovia Partnership East (WPE)
The East Carolina University College of Education, with the support of the Wachovia Foundation, has established Wachovia Partnership East. Through collaboration and innovation, the degree completion partnership focuses on preparing teachers who will help meet the demand for well-trained professionals in the classrooms of North Carolina and beyond. This endeavor involves partnerships with community colleges and public schools across eastern North Carolina. Students graduate with a four-year degree in elementary education, special education-general curriculum, or middle grades education from ECU. This degree completion partnership is designed specifically for students that transition from a North Carolina community college. WPE has five hub sites located throughout the east to include a Coastal Consortium, North Central Consortium, South Central Consortium, Northeast Consortium and Virtual Consortium. In the fall of 2008, there will be eight new cohorts; five in Elementary Education, with 112 students enrolled, two in Special Education, with 36 students enrolled and one in Middle Grades Education, with 14 students enrolled.
Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars Programs

In 2008, the North Carolina Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars programs integrated technology and global understanding into the coursework. The College of Education purchased video/audio iPods and accessories for the purpose of loaning the equipment to incoming freshmen for their first year at ECU. Students used the iPods throughout their freshman seminar course (COAD 1000), developing podcasts as well as downloading educational podcasts, music and videos. Students were also able to incorporate the use of the iPods in other courses.

In the spring of 2008, a new cohort was created for the Global Understanding course (ANTH 1050) at ECU. The cohort consisted of fourteen freshmen Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars. This unique course provided a format for students to learn about other cultures without traveling to far away countries. There are currently 17 institutions, internationally participating in the Global Understanding Course. The partner institutions are diverse, worldwide and communicate through live video conferencing and chat technology.

NC Teach

NC TEACH is a statewide alternative-route teacher preparation program for individuals who hold at least a bachelor’s degree in the subject area they want to teach. This fast-track program typically takes a lateral entry teacher one year to complete. Full online cohorts were offered both in the fall of 2007 and spring of 2008. In 2008, two new summer cohorts, the military cohort and online cohort, were added to the three existing cohorts. The new cohorts were created in partnership with ECU’s Division of Continuing Studies. Another new addition this past summer was the blended instruction format. NC TEACH participants were able to attend half of their classes face to face and half of their classes were taught online.

Outreach and Professional Development

The Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach partners with public schools for rural education research, professional development for teachers and student outreach activities. Last fall, an additional Clinical Teacher Conference was added for teachers who mentor interns during their student teaching experience in the fall semester, which provided nearly 1000 teachers throughout eastern North Carolina with high quality sessions led by ECU faculty and regional education experts. Teachers for a New Era/The Learning Network awarded a partnership with Pitt County Schools to provide training from the New Teacher Center, University of Santa Cruz, CA., to increase mentor capacity in the district. The office also supported training for over 200 teachers, in the fall, to improve the quality of instruction for English language learners. More than 3000 students from across the region attended student outreach activities on the ECU campus, focusing on teacher recruitment and college access.

Scholarships

In 2008, 114 scholarships and awards, totaling over $180,000, were awarded during the annual College of Education Scholarship Ceremony. Scholarships and awards ranged from $100 to $6000. New scholarships and awards presented this year include the James Bryant Kirkland, Jr. and Evelyn Johnson Kirkland Middle Grades Scholarship awarded to an undergraduate majoring in middle grades education; Ellen Boone Staton Memorial Scholarship for an undergraduate majoring in elementary education; the Carol Smith Gardner Educational Leadership Fellowship for a graduate student in educational leadership and the Diane Kester Innovator Award given to a student’s innovative practices within the school library media coordinator and/or technology facilitator preparation programs and a commitment to the ideals of collaboration through support of peers and colleagues.