

T N E

The Teachers for a New Era Project The University of Connecticut

Spring
2010
Bulletin

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Message from the Director...

Last fall, the Carnegie Corporation approved our extension of Teachers for a New Era so that we can continue our collaborative work on teacher preparation. The extension process gave us a push to think about our TNE work and to focus on designing projects that will have the most impact related to the three design principles laid out by TNE.

We continue to work on our Educational Expansions project and are in the analysis phase, examining over 100,000 student records to better understand the influence of Neag-prepared teachers on their pupils' learning. Our Ed Expansions team will be presenting their preliminary findings at the 2010 American Education Research Association Annual Conference in April.

Collaborative work with the arts and sciences will include continued work on the dual degree and continued collaboration on the best ways to prepare teachers in their content areas. Dr. Tyson Miller joins Drs. Fabiana Cardetti and Juliet Lee as a TNE Fellow, and the three are busy planning activities with TNE Associate Director Dr. Manuela Wagner for teacher candidate recruitment, grant writing, and data collection.

Our Schools-As-Clinics Committee includes representatives from each of our partner districts and meets on a regular basis to discuss the enhancement of clinic-based learning and assessment. With TNE funding we will support teachers who work with our teacher candidates to participate in mentor training in 2010. In addition, we have earmarked significant resources to work with districts to develop a model implementation of Connecticut's new TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring) Program in support of new teacher induction.

Completing the extension work also provided us with an opportunity to take stock of the extraordinary number of accomplishments of the TNE@UConn team since we began in 2004. I so appreciate the work of all who have been involved! I believe our work has and will continue to result in lasting changes that enhance our teacher preparation program and in turn, have a positive impact on the lives of children who are taught by UConn-NSOE grads.

Marijke Kehrhahn
Neag School of Education Associate Dean
Director, Teachers for a New Era



“ The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you. ”
- B.B. King

TNE would like to welcome Dr. Manuela Wagner as our new Associate Director!

A message from Dr. Wagner:

As part of my work in TNE during the past five and a half years, I feel fortunate to have worked on initiatives to improve teacher quality. I am thrilled to be able to continue my work on TNE-related issues in my position as Associate Director of TNE at UCONN.

The main focus of my current projects is to help facilitate collaborations among colleagues across the campus and in school districts in order to address important questions in education. We recently organized a meeting between members of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and the Neag School of Education. Discussions centered on how to help students study abroad longer in order to help them achieve higher foreign language proficiency; how to provide them with more opportunities to interact in the target culture while still being able to graduate within a reasonable time; whether it would be feasible to offer teacher certification in Italian and other languages within the IB/M program; and how we can best inform our students of job opportunities in teaching early on in their academic career. Participants reported finding the meeting useful and made plans to reconvene in the near future. We plan to continue to organize meetings throughout the university.

In the Curriculum Design Committee, members from the Neag School of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are designing a brochure with information on successful initiatives that helped a) teacher candidates (or students interested in teaching) find the right advice throughout their career, b) inform faculty members of possible opportunities to collaborate on education-related grants, and c) organize meetings to discuss questions and issues concerning teacher education.

Collaborations as the ones mentioned above have brought about proposals, such as the dual degree initiative, which allows teacher candidates to complete their degree in the content area (for example, Mathematics or Spanish) along with their degree in education. I encourage and look forward to your suggestions for initiatives addressing the question of how we can improve the education of our students and our teacher candidates.

- Manuela Wagner



Third Annual Teacher Recognition Event

The third annual Teacher Recognition event will be held on Thursday, March 25th. The annual event is designed to express gratitude and thanks to the Cooperating teachers that supervise and mentor student teachers in the Neag School of Education Integrated Bachelor's/Master's program. This event will be sponsored by the Neag School of Education, Teachers for a New Era, and Pi Lambda Theta, a national honor society of educators.

This year, we are pleased to welcome keynote speaker Tony Abbott, a children's author and graduate of the University of Connecticut. He has written over seventy-five books for young readers, including the popular fantasy saga, *The Secrets of Droon*. Thank you Mr. Abbott for joining us to recognize the cooperating teachers!

Teachers for a New Era would like to thank all that have helped make this event possible. We look forward to this acknowledgement of the hard work and effort cooperating teachers make to guide our future educators.



Learn about a new initiative at UConn's Neag School of Education...

Project PREPARE-ELLs builds capacity for teaching English learners

By Thomas H. Levine & Elizabeth Howard

The burgeoning population of English Language Learners in U.S. schools presents a great opportunity and a great challenge for public education and for the Neag School of Education. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that by 2030—well within the teaching careers of the teachers we are now preparing—40 percent of U.S. students will be raised in homes where English is not the first language. A majority of U.S. teachers report feeling unprepared to help English language learners; however, TNE is helping the Neag School of Education address this need by funding Project PREPARE-ELLs [Preparing Responsive Educators who Promote Access and Realize Excellence with English Language Learners].

Project PREPARE grows out of a faculty study group led by faculty members in our Bilingual and Multicultural Education program. This group met from 2006 through 2008, and helped five methods instructors begin to understand the resources and needs that ELLs have as they work to learn rigorous academic content. Project PREPARE is now creating a larger faculty learning community among sixteen NSOE faculty members, including core IB/M content area methods instructors, IB/M clinical faculty, and the lead faculty for the TCPCG campuses. TNE is funding the project's two professional development seminars and a week-long summer institute designed to build faculty's knowledge and skills relevant to teacher preparation for linguistic diversity. The summer workshop is being led by Deborah Short, one of the creators of the SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol), a research-based approach to making subject area instruction comprehensible for ELLs. The week will also feature a day with Maria Elena Brisk, the Director of Teacher Education at Boston College and a national expert on preparing teachers for linguistic diversity. Dr. Brisk has been working with Boston College faculty over the past several years in a similar project, and is therefore uniquely situated to provide expert guidance to the NSOE group. Participating faculty will use what they learn to revise course syllabi in fall 2010, and again in the fall of 2011 after collecting data and assessing their efforts. The group will study the project's impact on preservice teachers and on teacher educators. Publications from the group will help other teacher education programs who may be interested in increasing the capacity of their teacher educators to better prepare teachers to work effectively with ELLs.

To learn more about the project, please contact co-directors Tom Levine (thomas.levine@uconn.edu) or Liz Howard (elizabeth.howard@uconn.edu).





Upcoming Events

Speaker Series in Mathematics Education:

Speaker: Dr. William McCallum

University of Arizona

Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 4:30pm

Biology/Physics Building Room 130

Topic: "Common-core mathematics standards"

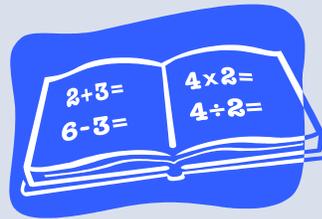
Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Gross

University of Vermont

Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 4:30pm

Biology/Physics Building Room 130

Topic: "Elementary teachers as mathematicians: Turning challenges into opportunities"



For up-to-date news and information about TNE, please visit: www.tne.uconn.edu

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FRS: 632535

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