First Annual Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute a Huge Success

This year’s theme, “Putting it All Together: Inclusion in Early Childhood”, drew over 80 participants from across Oregon, Washington and Idaho to its first yearly conference this past August. It brought together family members, early childhood, early intervention/early childhood special education, and early elementary (K—4th grade) pre-service and practicing teachers on the WOU campus for 3 days of professional development, collaboration and celebration.

The response was tremendously encouraging and appreciative of this new collaboration between the College of Education and the Teaching Research Institute. Participants are already eagerly awaiting next year’s conference announcement, and many have expressed the desire to increase their participation through presentations and exhibit opportunities.

To read more about the institute and keynote speaker Kristie Prettie-Frontczak, go to wouedcsummerinstitute.weebly.com

7th Annual 2014 Seabeck DeafBlind Retreat has International Impact

This marked the 7th year that students from WOU have attended the Seabeck DeafBlind Academic Service Learning experience in Seabeck, WA. Over $7000 was raised by our Deaf-Blind interpreting students at WOU during the course of Winter and Spring terms, allowing students to participate in this 8 day experience. Of the 120 sighted support service provider volunteers at Seabeck, WOU students and Alumni comprised 25%! Over the 7 years we have been a part of this fantastic experience, 96 WOU students have volunteered at the retreat, learning skills and developing expertise in supporting deaf/blind individuals.

The 60 DeafBlind attendees with varying stages of vision and hearing loss came to the retreat from Belgium, Austria, Canada and the US. Some are newly acclimating to a more limited field of vision, while others are seasoned hand on hand tactile ASL users.
Elementary Mathematics Instructional Leader Program

The Mathematics Department and the Division of Teacher Education are offering a suite of graduate level mathematics, leadership and practicum courses that satisfy requirements of the TSPC Elementary Mathematics Instructional Leader Specialization. This is Oregon’s first and only TSPC approved Elementary Mathematics Specialist program.

Students can work toward the specialization alone, or in combination with a MSED. Common Core Standards and Smarter Balanced assessments are bringing big changes to Oregon schools and WOU is excited to be in a position to aid teachers in this transition. Discover more at wou.edu/EMIL

Jennifer Taylor, Ph.D.
Div. of Health & Physical Education

Ph.D. Oregon State University in Exercise & Sport Science: Movement Studies in Disability

“In the upcoming year I look forward to learning more about Monmouth and its surrounding areas in hopes of strengthening the connection between students and the community by providing community members with disabilities more physical activity opportunities.”

Faculty in the College of Education were enormously productive last year authoring more than 50 articles, book chapters, and essays and delivering nearly 150 professional presentations around the world. Here’s a snapshot:


The Exercise Science Major, here at Western Oregon, has three components: The core classes include things like physiology of exercise, anatomy, biomechanics, motor learning and several other courses. There are advanced topics classes, which are an application of the core classes. And then, the really unique thing about our program, students get 20 hours of elective work in Exercise Science that allows them to tailor make the coursework to their particular professional interest. Examples of key technology we have available include the bod pod which allows students to experience valid body composition testing, measure fat mass versus lean mass and analyze disease risks as well as weight loss programs. Also exciting is the metabolic cart that allows students to measure caloric burn during exercise, thus analyzing cardiovascular fitness, a very important aspect of what they need to understand in their professional applications beyond WOU. ~ excerpt from WOU TV: Exercise Science Labs at WOU

Exercise Science Labs at WOU

Patrick Graham, Ph.D.
Div. of Special Education

Ph.D. in Educational Theory and Practice, University of Georgia

“I’ve come to WOU because of it’s close knit community and the support that faculty and students have for each other. I also feel that multiculturalism is celebrated here, and it’s a safe zone where many people can achieve their goals. It’s a great, small community for my husband and I to raise our two young sons, ages eight & six.”

Exercise Science Labs at WOU

Formerly a Graduate Student with the Division of Health and Physical Education, Karla has returned to the College of Education in a new role as the Strategic Partnerships Coordinator. Her role in the College of Education is to serve as liaison between statewide K-12 districts, community partners and WOU programs. Karla is also an adjunct faculty in the areas of science education and learning and development.

“Looking forward to helping deliver COE programs off-site, in our local school districts.”

Karla Hale
Dean’s Office
Project High Five: Culture, Collaboration, Commitment Communication and Community

Advancing the ability of teachers to meet the needs of culturally and/or linguistically diverse students is a key component of Oregon’s 40-40-20 goal. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) recently awarded $200,000 to WOU’s Teaching Research Institute and COE, one of nine competitively funded grant awards, to support Project High Five. The project is a collaborative endeavor between WOU, Central School District 13J, the Ella Curran Food Bank, and the Oregon Child Development Coalition to develop a strong Professional Development School (PDS) partnership between Central School District and Western Oregon University. The partnership will be based on principles of culturally responsive pedagogy while strengthening and expanding English Language Development (ELD) for English Learners and being actively involved with community partnerships and service to the community.

Upcoming ASSETT Opportunities!
The Agile and Sustainable Supplemental Education Technology Training working group has great things to offer this term!

October 27th: Dr. Punya Mishra will present an evening lecture on educational technology in our changing world. Dr. Mishra is a professor of Educational Psychology and Educational Technology at the College of Education, Michigan State University. Recently named "...one of the ten most influential people in the educational technology..." by the Technology and Learning journal, his work focuses on the intersection of education, creativity, design and technology.

October 28th: On day two of Dr. Mishra’s visit, faculty have a chance to participate in a brown bag lunch session with this remarkable educator.

November 7th: Dean Deters is bringing us two presentations, “Using Mobile Devices for Classroom Management” and “Creating Video with iPad”. Starting his 16th year teaching this year, Dean works at Puyallup Elementary school. He is completing his MSEd in Information Technology this Fall.

December 3rd: Melanie Landon-Hayes will present her recently co-edited book, Digital Networking for School Reform: The Online Grassroots Efforts of Parent and Teacher Activists. Her presentation will cover the stories of parents and teachers who have used online tools and social media to grow a grassroots movement to counter the corporate takeover of public schools.

Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program News

September 19th marked the 40th Anniversary of our Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program! Over 460 students have graduated from the program since its inception in 1974. The COE congratulates all the faculty and staff who have contributed over the years to this outstanding accomplishment.

And congratulations for winning another Long Term Training grant from the Rehabilitation Services

Xiaopeng (Sunny) Gong, Ph.D.
Div. Of Teacher Education

Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, Ball State University

“My research is quantitative in nature, and has been focused on parenting, inter-parental relations, perfectionism and immigrant students’ adaptation. I feel especially blessed to become a new member of the WOU family, my colleagues are so warm and friendly, and the moment I stepped on the campus,

Emily Vala-Haynes, Ph.D
Div. of Health & Physical Education

Ph.D in Demography and Sociology
University of Pennsylvania

“I’m interested in reproductive health challenges faced by women in rural areas, internationally and in the US. I’m excited to bring international experiences into the classroom, helping students engage locally and globally. As a native of Yamhill County, OR., I am absolutely thrilled to return and work with students and faculty on community health projects so close to where I grew up.”

Enjoying this issue of “Connecting Teaching and Learning”? Want to learn more? To receive future quarterly editions simply email your postal address to education@wou.edu with the subject line “CT&L Newsletter”.

Visit our website to discover more about what WOU can do for you! www.wou.edu/education
Welcome to Fall 2014 at Western Oregon University

I love the fall! I love the change in seasons and colors, fall sports, cooler weather, and I absolutely love the energy of a new school year! We are privileged here at Western Oregon University to have such a beautiful campus and community and coming to work this time of year just makes me excited. On top of that, faculty and staff are celebrating a long list of successes from the '13-'14 year and are looking forward to new challenges and opportunities for the '14-'15 year. Graduates from our programs found a much more friendly hiring climate than in the last several years and our students are now working in schools, agencies, businesses, and organizations throughout Oregon and around the world. Into early September, school districts continued to call seeking to hire our teacher graduates as Oregon added back hundreds of teaching positions lost during leaner times.

Each of us in the College of Education looks forward to continuing to deliver excellent academic programs, connecting with students, and mentoring the next generation of professionals into the fields that we love so dearly. Graduates from College of Education programs go on to do great things making the world a better place. We help good people become great professionals. Join us as we seek to change the world!

Dr. Mark Girod, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Education
WOU Alumni (1993 and 1996)

Richard Woodcock Education Center
Our new education building is off to a great start! Schematic design work is complete and has been sent to the contractor for cost estimates.

Your COE building planning committee has been deeply involved in the strategic processes that have gone into the current set of conceptual plans, and a final version will be available soon. These images depict current drafts of the exterior views, though decorative touches such as entry pergolas and roofline caps may still find their way into the final designs.

“Our new building represents an opportunity to build facilities that match our vision of excellence in teaching, learning, and service to our professions,” says Dean Girod. “Developing spaces that promote partnerships and collaboration, provides opportunities to use the latest technology and teaching tools, and invites students to study with us is essential to our design work. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Woodcock and his family for helping to make our dreams a reality through their generous donation.”

wou.edu/education