

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NEWS

FALL  2016



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DEAN'S MESSAGE



Friends,

We hope you are receiving this edition of the College of Education News in the company of friends and family as 2016 comes to an end. As New Year's resolutions start to form, the College of Education has its own version of resolutions coming up: our 2017-2023 strategic plan.

When I first became dean of the college five years ago, I hoped we could enhance our research profile, restore our teacher education enrollment numbers and increase its diversity, and hire even more talented faculty. In seven years, we have seen continued growth of the university, and the college, an explosion of research and grant activity, and a faculty profile that rivals any in the nation.

Our growth and progress was validated by the recognition we received at the University's Convocation in the fall, where university-wide Presidential Awards in Excellence were awarded in the categories of Teaching, Service, Scholarly/Creative Activities, and Diversity. It is my honor to share that we had faculty and staff win in every category! Though this may be surprising to most, it is no surprise to me. Each of these categories is a cornerstone in our mission, which has led us to do excellent work with excellent people; these cornerstones will continue to guide and shape us for the years to come.

We look forward to working with our faculty, staff, students and the university to help us reach for the stars in our next strategic plan.

As always we invite you to share comments and suggestions at this time and, indeed, at any time.

Best,

Stan Carpenter, Dean
College of Education

This information is available in alternate format upon request from the Office of Disability Services.

Thanks for #SteppingUp!



September 21 marked the launch of "Step Up for State," a twenty-four hour giving campaign at Texas State University. Over \$220,000 was raised by the community to give to 26 projects.

We are happy to share that the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award—the College of Education's designated project—received over \$5,800 from more than 130 donors!

Through your efforts, children across Texas will receive free award-winning books. We thank you and look forward to next year!

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Upcoming Events

Commencement: CLAS, HHP
Saturday, December 17, 10 a.m.
Strahan Coliseum

Commencement: C&I
Saturday, December 17, 2 p.m.
Strahan Coliseum

Student & Alumni Reception with CLAS Ed Leadership & SI Programs
Monday, January 30, 5 p.m.
Austin Hilton Hotel

2017 Women in Science & Engineering Annual Conference (WISE)
Dr. Kristina Collins Guest Speaker (C&I)
Friday, April 28
LBJ Ballroom, Texas State University

COE Leads in Presidential Award Winners

During Texas State University's annual Convocation held in late August, President Denise M. Trauth announced the year's recipients for Presidential Excellence awards. "I'd like to focus on recognizing our many outstanding faculty and staff, as it is their commitment to excellence that helps set our pace for strong growth and academic achievement," said President Trauth before announcing the recipients. The College of Education faculty and staff won over half of the awards in teaching, research, service, and diversity promotion available to the university.

Dr. Russell Lang | C&I



Excellence in Teaching (Professor rank)

"There is sufficient data to support the conclusion that the staff and faculty of the College of Education at Texas State University are among the best educators on the planet. Further, the faculty, lectures, and adjuncts affiliated with C&I's Special Education program are indisputably the best in COE. Therefore, it is not possible to be a member of that group for six years and not improve as an educator."

Dr. Melissa Martinez | CLAS



Excellence in Scholarly/ Creative Activities

"I am very driven by my need to serve others, engage in critical and social justice work, and by my own curiosity and love of research and writing. And so I think my excellence in scholarly and creative activities reflects the privilege I have as a tenure-track faculty member to engage in research that is truly meaningful to me, and hopefully work that helps inform issues of equity and social justice in my field."

Dr. Brandon Beck | C&I



Excellence in Diversity (Faculty)

"Excellence in Diversity is a core value of mine because I have a lot of privilege as an able-bodied, educated, white man. But I also experience marginalization as a pansexual, transgender man. Learning to appreciate others and to listen and value individuality and to build alliances across difference has become important as I've examined my intersecting identities, and I am grateful to be recognized for my work."

Dr. Barry Aidman | CLAS



Excellence in Teaching (Assistant Professor rank)

"I have been inspired by the students I have had the privilege to teach over the years. They willingly give up their scarce discretionary time to invest in their own learning and growth, with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of students, families, faculties and communities they serve."

Dr. Lyn Litchke | HHP



Excellence in Service

"God gave me this gift of using recreation to help persons with disabilities. When I was young, my best friend had Down Syndrome and I taught her to roller skate and jump rope. I was a recreation therapist in the making from way back. To this day I still take my students to all kinds of adaptive recreation events outside the classroom so that they can realize their gifts too."

Project SUPERB | CLAS



Excellence in Diversity (Team)

"It's great to see the university recognize the School Psychology Program embracing the University's Hispanic-Serving Institute status; it's an opportunity to fund future highly qualified bilingual school psychologists. Plus, Project SUPERB has been a great collaboration among faculty and staff to support students."

Drums Are Alive in San Marcos

On November 16, the Department of Health and Human Performance hosted Carrie Ekins, chief executive officer, education coordinator and owner of Drums Alive® as their fall Brennan and Smith Lecture Series guest speaker and for the first time hosted an interactive session.

“We added the interactive piece and opened it up to the San Marcos community so that the teachers, families and students in SMCISD would have the opportunity to try Drums Alive® DRUMTASTICS and have a better understanding of what the research intervention would involve,” shared Dr. Lyn Litchke, professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance. The research Litchke references is one of the reasons Ekins was chosen as this year’s guest lecturer.

Initially, Ekins was recommended by the Special Olympics Texas’ Young Athletes Program (YAP), which is implementing the Drums Alive® DRUMTASTICS curriculum into the motor skills development for their participants. YAP is an inclusive motor and social skills pre-sport development program in Special Olympics, which is geared towards bringing children with and without disabilities together. Ekins’ research showed the impact of DRUMTASTICS for children with intellectual disabilities and found improvements in their motor skills, social skills, and emotional skills with a trending impact on improving reading skills; thus making it a perfect fit for YAP to implement in the local community and beyond.

As a matter of fact, the program has helped launch an interdisciplinary, international research project among DRUMTASTICS, Special Olympics Texas and China, and Texas State University to benefit society in the context of physical and mental health, social challenges, inter-cultural aspects, music, and education.

To see more on this year’s Brennan & Smith Lecture Series, visit: education.txstate.edu/news.



Carrie Ekins is an international presenter, trainer and educator in the fitness and wellness field and has been awarded 2012 Program Director of the Year from the International Dance Exercise Association and Best International Presenter 2010 and Most Innovative and Creative Programming 2010 for Drums Alive® from the East Coast Alliance.

GUEST LECTURER DR. LEAH BUECHLEY ON

Access & Equity in the Maker Movement

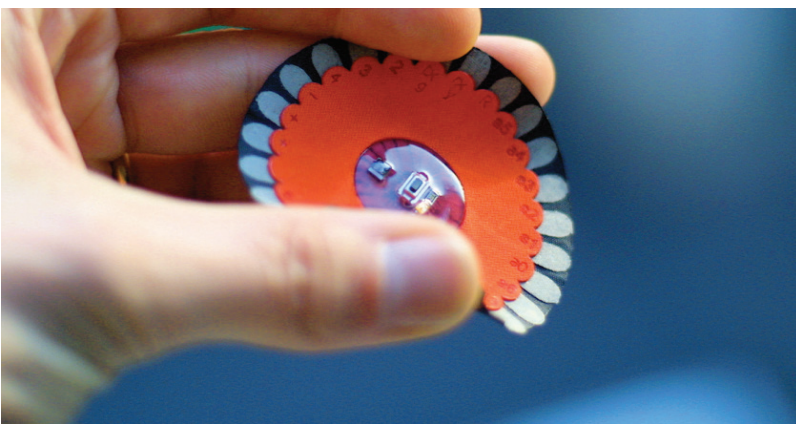
The College of Education's Educational Technology and Talent Development programs, in collaboration with Art Education, Engineering Technology, and Mathematics Education, hosted Dr. Leah Buechley's guest lecture event on October 3, which focused on access and equity within the maker movement and implications for teaching and learning.

Buechley is a designer, engineer, and educator whose work explores intersections and juxtapositions of "high" and "low" technologies, new and ancient materials, and masculine and feminine making traditions. LilyPad Arduino, Buechley's personal invention, is a prime example of those various elements coming together. LilyPad is a low-cost computational device used for creating interactive electronic textiles and has been important in inspiring females to engage in STEM fields.

Throughout her lecture, Buechley repeated the themes of possible marginalization of people, interests, and perspectives in the "maker movement" and the field of technology. She drew attention to important societal and educational issues

related to class, gender, race, culture, identity, consumerism (and corporatism), and more. Buechley's topical focus on high-tech and low-tech "making" was timely and engaging, opening doors for increased critical dialogue across the university community and Central Texas communities on equity and diversity issues that extend beyond the maker movement and technology. Their participation in this event bridged numerous colleges, departments, and centers, promoting enriched benefit from the ideas, multidisciplinary issues, and theoretical perspectives that Dr. Buechley brought to light during her guest lecture event.

Dr. Shaunna Smith (Educational Technology program) and Dr. Susan Field Waite (Talent Development program) organized the event with funding provided through the Faculty Senate Guest Lecture series. Video of the complete guest lecture event is available on Dr. Smith's The MAKE Lab website: themakelab.wp.txstate.edu.



EXCELLENCE ★ RELEVANCE ★ ENGAGEMENT

The College of Education's **Academic Advising** staff had a great start to the year by achieving leadership positions across campus and presenting at various conferences. "We are fortunate to have a staff of advisors today who are extremely motivated and committed personally to excellence," said Joya Konieczny, director of the College of Education Academic Advising office.



goals means they are using that personal drive to achieve results for the team, and that makes for a great year." When asked about the key to their success Konieczny shares it's all about planning: "We are constantly looking for ways to get ahead of the calendar and to anticipate and prevent problems before they occur. That's a lofty goal but one we continue to work toward and have already begun experi-

"The fact that they care about each other and about our collective

encing the positive benefits of doing so."

Presentations | COE Advising

⇒ "Let's Get Intentional: A Simple Approach to Creating and Implementing a Proactive Advising Center Communication Strategy," presented by Joya Konieczny, was selected by the National Academic Advising Association as a Commission-Sponsored session, for being one of the top three rated proposals.

⇒ Three presentations covering topics of relationship building, cultural awareness, and assisting student-athletes were given at the annual Texas State Advising Conference by the COE Advising team.

Leadership/Officer Positions | COE Advising

Bailey Verschoyle, chair of the Texas State Advising Assessment Team
Lilia Montes, secretary of Texas State Advising Achievement and Recognition Team
Jenna Remily, chair-elect of the Texas State Career Advising Team
Noel Fuller, secretary of the Texas State Advising Assessment Team; member at large for Logistics on University Staff Council
Arlene Harborth, chair of Texas State Athletic Advising Team
April Cunningham, secretary of Texas State Technology Advising Team

Dr. Duane Knudson, chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance, gave one of three keynote lectures at the 40th Annual Conference of the American Society of Biomechanics at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. "I felt honored and delighted to receive the invitation," Knudson shared. "Receiving peer recognition...was great. It means my work has been recognized not only in kinesiology but in the larger parent field of biomechanics." Knudson presented "Application of Tennis Biomechanics in the Court and Beyond." His research on hand forces, muscle activations, kinematics, and kinetics during tennis strokes, as well as other research has informed instruction and conditioning for tennis and other sports.



Dr. Lori Assaf, professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, has been recommended for the Fulbright Specialist Roster. "Being awarded as a Fulbright Specialist Roster Candidate is exciting, and I am honored to be part of such a prestigious organization," Assaf shared. The Roster lists all candidates who are eligible to be matched with incoming project requests from academic institutions overseas. Assaf would enjoy going to Chile, India, or Jordan, but is open to traveling anywhere. "Really, I would hope to participate in projects that allow me to utilize my experiences as a teacher educator/researcher and my knowledge of reading, curriculum development, and field-based teaching. I would love to help co-create a field-based teacher education program."



Dr. Kristina Collins, assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was a keynote speaker at the 33rd Annual Conference for the Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) organization over the summer in Williamsburg, VA. "It is always an honor [but] I was especially honored to be asked by a leading, national organization that serves as an advocate for the holistic development of gifted and talented children," said Collins. Her presentation entitled: "Wait a SEC! Reframing Our Present Approach to Gifted Education & Talent Development," explored the intersections of social, emotional, and cultural development and academic achievement. "I wanted every person (there) to understand their individual role, responsibility, and capability to move us forward in developing America's talent—especially our culturally and linguistically diverse children," said Collins.



English in Texas Journal Wins Big

English in Texas, co-edited by C&I faculty Jane Saunders, Gwynne Ash, Lori Assaf, Carol Delaney and Valerie Taylor, published by the Texas Council of Teachers of English, has been named winner of the 2016 NCTE Affiliate Journal Award, given by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

This award, established in 1995, honors outstanding affiliate journals and their editors who demonstrate excellence in these publications.

The winning affiliate journal must be a magazine-type publication—print or online—and provide members with scholarly articles on issues and topics related to English language arts teaching. The journals are judged on content, organization, layout, and physical appearance. The variety of articles published are judged on quality of writing, evidence of research and scholarly



exploration, appeal to many different groups within the affiliate, coverage of important issues in English language arts education, and inclusion of other types of writing (e.g., poetry, affiliate news, book reviews). The award winners were announced at the 2016 NCTE Annual Convention in Atlanta, during the Affiliate Roundtable Breakfast on Sunday, November 20.

For more information about the NCTE Affiliate Journal Award, see www.ncte.org/affiliates/awards/journal.

The National Council of Teachers of English, with 25,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is the nation's oldest literacy organization. With the expertise of its members, NCTE has led the nation in its most important decisions and trajectories around preK-16+ literacy/writing/literature thinking. NCTE is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education.

Research

Dr. Brenda Scheuermann, professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, will serve as principal investigator for a four-year, **\$4.3**

million grant from the National Institute of Justice to study a process for integrating law enforcement officers into an educational setting.

Although many districts now assign police to their schools, very little is known about “what works” in regards to school-based law enforcement. “This project offers us an exciting opportunity to evaluate a practice (school policing) that is widespread, but about which we know relatively little,” said Scheuermann. “We hope to be able to show that giving school police officers and educators practical tools for guiding their partnership can produce desirable outcomes in terms of school discipline and school climate.” By focusing on the implementation framework, rather than a specific program, this study will evaluate a translatable



approach for enhancing campus safety and reducing exclusionary discipline that can be utilized by schools across the country.

This study builds upon the work that Scheuermann and the Texas School Safety Center have conducted over the past 20 years. Scheuermann has researched evidence-based approaches to effective discipline in schools and juvenile justice settings, relying on practices known as positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS). Her work has focused on both preventive practices as well as effective interventions for students who exhibit the most challenging behaviors. Most recently, she and a small team of researchers from across the country have been working with juvenile justice agencies in Texas and other states to revise behavioral programming in secure care juvenile facilities to reflect a PBIS framework. The work of this research team reflects, and has contributed to, federal recommendations for juvenile justice programming.

C.A.R.E.S.

Clinic for Autism Research, Evaluation and Support

Congrats to C.A.R.E.S. for recently receiving multiple awards to further its Autism research and support services!

\$63,238

CO-PI, Katy Davenport and Dr. Russell Lang

Create a new clinical program—Developmental Intervention Services—to teach adaptive-life and daily-living skills to children with developmental and intellectual disabilities

\$105,548

PI-Dr. Russell Lang

Develop a parent-directed treatment program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

\$178,537

PI-Dr. Russell Lang

Develop a teacher-paraprofessional training program

C.A.R.E.S. Key Project Personnel

Dr. Russell Lang

Allyson Lee

Katy Davenport

Caitlin Murphy

Melissa Moore

Katherine Ledbetter-Cho

Visit cares.education.txstate.edu to learn more

ALUMNA PUTS PRACTICE TO THE TEST, WINS THREE AWARDS

On September 21, South San ISD (San Antonio, TX) principals were recognized by the school board for 2015-16 Exemplary Achievement in various categories. Alumna Yvonne Hernandez (School Improvement) was awarded for: Outstanding First Year Principal; Outstanding Principal of the Year; and, Greatest Academic Gains (Secondary). Principal of the Year awards were determined by a peer vote; and the remaining awards were determined by TEA data. "I believe I was chosen as principal of the year by my peers, because they understood that I was new to the district, new to the secondary level, and new to the position," Hernandez said. "They also knew that I took on a huge undertaking being that my campus was a Reconstituted campus and had received much negative publicity. They were able to see how in one year my campus received very positive feedback from our community and was academically successful." Hernandez took over Dwight Middle School in 2015 and in one year received three

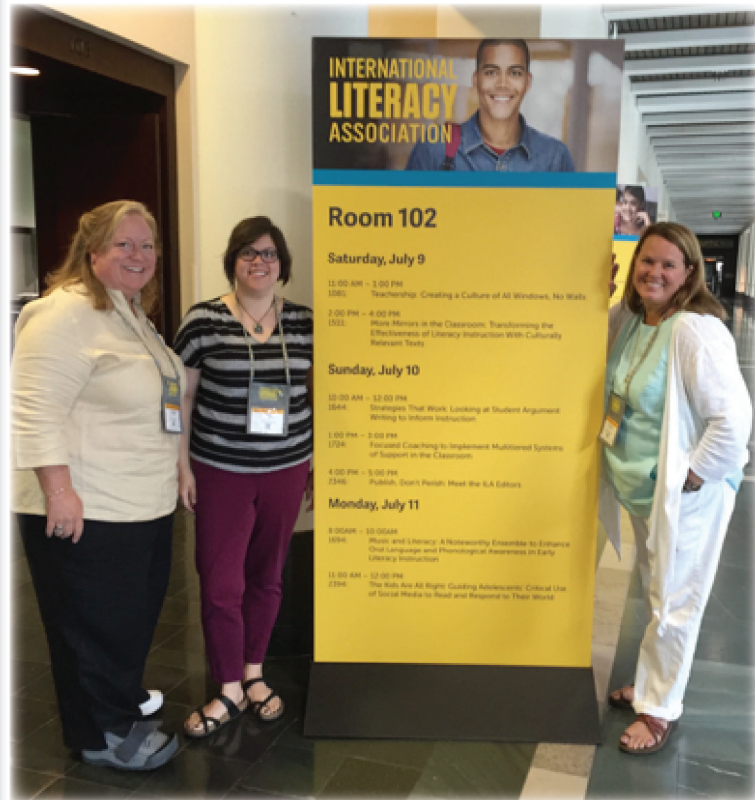
distinctions from TEA in Social Studies, Top 25% Closing the Performance Gap, and Post-Secondary Readiness. "We received the most distinctions at the secondary level in my school district," Hernandez shared. "This was my favorite moment as the principal of Dwight because our results validated all of the hard work my students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrative team poured into improving our instructional program and our campus overall." Hernandez had various anecdotes to share regarding her coursework and professors who helped shape her skill-set, but her bottom line message was: "...if you are passionate about changing and improving our school systems, Texas State's School Improvement Program will provide you with the skills and support necessary to be a successful Agent of Change."



GRADUATE STUDENTS AND FACULTY COME TOGETHER

One of the goals for College of Education professors is to work actively with students and make public what they are learning from one another through courses and research. They do this by presenting at professional conferences and publishing in academic journals side-by-side with students in their programs.

Master's of Education in Reading Education students and faculty did just that when they presented at the International Literacy Conference in Boston, MA, over the summer. Dr. Gwynne Ash, graduate student Isabelle Salazar, and Dr. Jane Saunders can be seen photographed just before their presentation of *The Kids are All Right: Guiding Adolescents' Critical Use of Social Media to Read and Respond to Their World*. The three currently have a manuscript under review related to this work. Additionally, graduate students Erika Chody and Perkins Goode, along with author Duncan Tontiah presented *The Power of Social Justice History: Transforming Understandings through Critical Literacy* with Dr. Sharon O'Neal.



RISING STARS



Alumna **Crystal Kelley**, middle school teacher at Goodnight Middle School (SM-CISD) was chosen as Regional Secondary Teacher of the Year. She was one of 40 regional winners who competed for Texas Teacher of the Year.



Diana Benner, Educational Technology Master's program alumna, was selected to join the Microsoft Innovator Educator Expert Program. Benner is the Director of Professional Development at Texas Computer Education Association.



Dr. **Clint-Michael Reneau**, director of the Office of Disability Services at Texas State University was the recipient of the Diversity in Excellence (Staff) Award. Reneau is a doctoral graduate from the Adult, Professional, and Community Engagement program.

Senior **Stephanie Barker** was awarded the New Braunfels Retired Teachers Association Fall Scholarship. Barker is currently student teaching at New Braunfels Middle School.



“Receiving this scholarship is not only an honor but also a stepping-stone for the next chapter of my life in education. I hope to use this scholarship as a start to achieving my master’s in education administration. Student teaching has been a blessing in preparing me for the years to come. I can truly say I will take what I’ve learned from the teachers I’ve shadowed and instill these same lessons in my students. I firmly believe that my learning as a future educator doesn’t stop here; it only begins.”

In announcing Barker as the recipient, NBRTA sited Barker as “a very deserving student and an excellent representative of [the] strong teaching program at Texas State University.”



Graduate students **Brett Lee** and **Claudia Kramer Santamaria** in the School Improvement program were inducted into the 2016-18 Jackson Scholars Network cohort by the University Council of Educational Administration.

Isaac Torres, a doctoral student in the School Improvement program, is the 2016-17 recipient of the Graduate College Scholarship and the Celebrity Classic Endowed Scholarship. Torres' goal is to be a publishing, tenured professor at a major research university, while fulfilling his dream to complete meaningful work—affecting the lives of underserved and marginalized people in a positive and lasting way. In fact, Torres' interest in the SI program came from working with the community.



“After working in the education field for 5 years, from a community development perspective, I knew that in order for me to initiate real, lasting change for our most in-need families, I had to acquire more knowledge and skills. The Ph.D. in School Improvement program was suggested as a logical next stop to me by one of my mentors on campus, Dr. Michelle Hamilton in Health and Human Performance. She saw my passion and potential to work for effective change in the community, and acknowledged the SI program as a correct fit for such work.”

Thus far, Torres has been enjoying his time in the SI program.

“The faculty is a group of active, engaged, knowledgeable, and experienced educators and researchers. The students whom I’ve met from multiple cohorts are impassioned and friendly, and the content is challenging and enlightening. I’ve found that by working intensely, and collaboratively, I am starting to shape into the scholar that I’ve dreamed myself to be.”



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Our Mission

As a premier professional school, Texas State University's College of Education is dedicated to enhancing human potential for all through excellent teaching, relevant scholarship, and community engagement.

We will be excellent in evidence-based practice, scholarship and teaching.

We will be relevant to the needs of the people we serve.

We will be engaged in public and professional communities.



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