

College of Education | Achievements and Highlights

Prepared for
President Kirk Schulz and Provost April Mason

Awards:

On Sept. 24, Dean Debie Mercer accepted two awards presented to the College by the University Professional Continuing Education central region. The College won Innovative Program awards for both credit and non-credit for its Reading Specialist (credit) and GoTeacher (non-credit) programs.

Development:

Dean Mercer engaged in numerous development activities in September, which included:

Sept. 4: Speaking at the Abilene Cat Backer event

Sept. 6: Speaking at the Lawrence Cat Backer event

Sept 7: Hosting the Holen Courtyard dedication; participating in the Spirit of Leadership event; and attending the Land Grant Legacy luncheon.

Sept. 8: Hosting Cat Town, where more than 350 people attended

Sept. 10: Participating in the KSU Foundation Dean's Retreat

Sept. 14: Participating in the KSU Foundation Trustee event and leading a breakout session.

Highlights:

On Sept. 24, Dean Mercer and Dr. David Griffin, assistant dean and director of the Center for Student and Professional Services, met with leaders at Kansas City Kansas Community College to discuss credit hours for transfer students.

Commissioner of Education Diane DeBacker named Dr. Charles Rankin, professor of educational leadership, to the select seven-member team of the Commissioner's Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap. This initiative grew out of the state's most recent assessment data that indicates a troubling achievement gap between different subgroup populations.

Dr. David Thompson, professor and chair of educational leadership

- Began service as an experienced department head to the KSU New Department Heads Orientation seminars running from September through November 2012.
- Began service on a review team, comprised of the three College department heads, to examine and evaluate the College's research course sequence and its needs for the future.
- Worked with K-State library experts to construct a useful methodology to determine scholarly citation and impact of faculty work in lieu of traditional science methods in response to K-State 2025.

Dr. Susan Yelich-Biniecki, assistant professor of educational leadership, developed a new course proposal approved by faculty to feed a new forthcoming Graduate Certificate in Adult Education Leadership. The new certificate will be aimed at the greater Kansas City area and at existing K-State Olathe populations, including an interdisciplinary attraction for other Olathe faculty members. The course is titled "Leading Adults in a Globalized and Diverse World."

Dr. David Griffin attended the Kansas Academic Advising Network annual conference on Sept. 14 in Pittsburg, Kan.

Project EXCELL kicked off its third year on Sept. 15 when 47 adults with mild development disabilities arrived on campus for their weekly classes. Dr. Warren White, professor of special education, counseling and student affairs, founded the program.

Dr. Royce Ann Collins, associate professor of educational leadership

- Authored criteria and application for the new K-State Olathe adult education scholarship.
- Worked to create aggressive marketing strategies for K-State Olathe with new-hires Dr. Judy Favor, assistant professor, and Matt Maciel, Olathe program coordinator.

- Worked with Mary Hammel, COE graphic designer, and Dr. Judy Favor to redesign the adult education website, adding the newly approved Graduate Certificate in Adult Learning and the doctoral program, with emphasis on Olathe.

Dr. Mary Devin, associate professor of educational leadership

- Chaired the quarterly meeting of the Kansas Educational Leadership Institute Steering Committee. Members in attendance included COE Dean Debbie Mercer; David Thompson, department chair; Kansas Commissioner of Education Diane DeBacker; KASB Associate Executive Doug Moeckel; Greensburg Superintendent Darin Headrick representing the Kansas School Superintendents Association; and Jacque Feist representing the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals.
- Participated in the Advisory Board Meeting for the Council for Public School Improvement with area school superintendents planning professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators in this region.
- Attended a meeting of college and university professors of educational leadership to discuss the ACT test options applicable to the Kansas NCLB waiver.

Dr. Donna Augustine-Shaw, assistant professor of educational leadership, chaired the launch of the next phase of the Kansas Educational Leadership Institute (KELI) by conducting the first meeting of the Building Leader Mentoring/Induction Planning Committee. This group of approximately 20 educational leaders from across the state of Kansas began the process of reviewing best practice/research and seeking statewide involvement in creating and delivering a mentoring/professional development program supporting first year principals in Kansas.

Jackie Spears, professor of C&I and director of the Center for Science Education

- Was part of the planning effort for "Adapting to a Changing Climate on the Central Great Plains" conference held in the K-State Union Sept. 4-5. Spears was responsible for the session "Education and Communication" on Sept. 5. Shannon Washburn, faculty member in agriculture education, was part of a panel at that session.
- Participated in the External Evaluation of One Health Kansas (K-12 Outreach) on Sept. 18.
- Participated in the State Team Meeting on Sept. 26 about Next Generation Science Standards.

NACADA

- A week of free Web events in August addressed technology in advising and was well received by viewers across the country and world. It was followed by a Sept. 12 Web event, "Engaging Online Across Student Populations."
- Winners in the 2012 NACADA Annual Awards Program were acknowledged in the Sept. 7 issue of the "Chronicle of Higher Education," including the first winner of the Michael C. Holen Pacesetter Award.

Grants/External Funding:

Linda Thurston, associate dean for research and external funding, will be part of an evaluation team spearheaded by the Education Development Corporation (EDC) of Boston. The team, which includes EDC and Westat, an evaluation company in Washington, D.C., as well as Kansas State University, will conduct a multi-site, multi-level evaluation of the National Science Foundation's Broadening Participation in Computing Alliance Program (BPC-A). Thurston will be involved in the project for three years; the K-State award totals \$65,095.

Dr. Jeff Zacharakis, associate professor of educational leadership, (P.I.) and Dr. Haiyan Wang (CO-P.I., KSU department of statistics) received the KBOR/KSDE Kansas Education Research Scholars Program award (\$7,500 for stipend and travel). The title of the proposal is "Exploration of KBOR Data to Better Understand

Participation, Retention and Graduation Patterns of ABE/GED Students Transitioning to Community College Programs.”

Dr. Jackie Spears submitted a letter of intent on Sept. 20 to the National Science Foundation I-TEST Program: "Change, GIS Visualization, and the Climate System.”

Dr. Jeff Zacharakis (P.I.) and Susan Fish (KBOR) submitted a proposal to USDE-IES Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Educational Research Program entitled “Using State Longitudinal Data to Identify Postsecondary Pathways of Adult Education Students.”

Presentations

Dr. Jackie Spears presented at the Nebraska Association of Science Teachers annual meeting on Sept. 27 for a session entitled "Moving in the Future: What Should Nebraska Science Focus On?" Her presentation was “Next Generation Science Standards: Opportunities for STEM Faculty Engagement.”

Dr. Amanda Morales gave the keynote address at the National Heartland McNair Scholars Research Conference in Kansas City on Sept. 22. The title of her presentation was “Path to the Ph.D.: Lessons Learned from A Meandering Scholar.”

Dr. Tonnie Martinez presented at the Bonner Springs/Edwardsville Public Schools in Bonner Springs, Kan., on Sept. 4. The title of her presentation was “Teaching Strategies to Lower the Affective Filter and Make Content Comprehensible for English Learners.”

Publications

Thurston, L.P., Smith, C., Genskow, K., Prokopy, L., and Hargrove, W.L. (2012). The social context of water quality improvement evaluation. *New Directions in Evaluation*, 135, 41-58.

Kang, H. (2012). Training Online Faculty: A Phenomenology Study. *International Journal on E-Learning*, 11(4), 347-362.

- Kang, H. Reviewed research manuscripts for the *Journal of Learning Spaces*.

Student achievement

Cecilia Hernandez, a C&I Ph.D. graduate, won the Association of Teacher Educators Outstanding Dissertation award. She is now an assistant professor at New Mexico State University. Dr. Gail Shroyer, professor and department chair of C&I, was Hernandez’ major professor. In one year, two of Dr. Shroyer’s doctoral candidates won national awards for their dissertations.