

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

The Newsletter of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

April 2012

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring Semester! We are quickly approaching the end of another exciting semester in which Cohort 3 students are defending their dissertations, getting their Research Symposium presentations ready, and preparing to be hooded and graduate. Congratulations to Cohort 3. Spring semester is definitely my favorite time of the academic year!

We have also been busy interviewing students for Cohort 2 in Bakersfield and preparing to interview for Cohort 6 in Fresno. It appears once again that we will have two very enthusiastic new cohorts join the program--a special thank you to each faculty and staff member who has participated in the interview process for these candidates. Thank you.

On a less exciting note, we will be saying "so long" to our long-time doctoral program administrative assistant, Diane Rivera-Pasillas as she has decided it is time to enjoy the "good life" and spend more time with her growing family. She will be retiring this May after 38 years of service to the university and 21 years of service to the doctoral programs. Her last day in the office will be May 30. As you know, she trained me and the other program directors before me, so her decision to retire will leave a large gap in the program. We will surely miss her, but she has been so dedicated for such a long time that it is hard to begrudge her retirement! Please be sure to wish her well and to thank her for all she has done for the doctoral program.

This year the hooding of our doctoral graduates will take place on Saturday morning, May 19th, at Commencement. The master's degree hooding has been decentralized to schools and colleges. The doctoral hooding will be the only hooding ceremony at commencement and will be one of the highlights of the commencement ceremony. Also, please plan to attend our Alumni Luncheon on May 3--which cohort will have the most alum in attendance?

This newsletter highlights the successes and accomplishments of our students, graduates, and faculty. Congratulations to all who have been honored this year in some way, and thank you for making the Central Valley a better place because of your contributions. Please remember to let us know of your promotions, scholarly works, and any honors you have received so we can keep your cohort-mates up-to-date on what is happening.

Have a wonderful spring and summer--we'll be in touch next fall.

Sharon Brown-Welty, Director

GRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, May 3, 2012
1:00 – 8:00 PM
Henry Madden Library
California State University, Fresno

All students (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral), alumni, and community members are invited to attend this great event. Come view the extraordinary work of Fresno State master's and doctoral students. This event will showcase oral/poster presentations and creative works, including art, music, recitation, and more. Cohort 3 doctoral candidates will present their dissertation research in the 5:30-8:00 PM session.

DPELFS REPRESENTED AT AERA 2012

The DPELFS was well represented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) meeting held in April 2012 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Aside from rubbing shoulders with the rock stars of educational research (e.g., Guskey, Hargreaves, Nieto, et al.) and meeting Dr. Tracz' academic lineage (Dr. Patricia B. Elmore of Southern Illinois University), DPELFS faculty and students presented their research that covered a variety of topical groups and subjects. DPELFS 2012 AERA participants and presentations included:



González, J.C. *Experiences of Central California Latino Males: Leaders and Youth Recollecting Despair and Success in Barrios and Schools.*

González, J.C. *Faculty Women of Color Post-Gratz and –Grutter: The Critical Nexus of Race and Gender*

Harmon, T.B., & Tracz, S. M. *Analyzing College Remediation Using Regression Discontinuity.*



Marcellin, J., & Tracz, S. *Teacher and School Practices as Predictors for Reading Proficiency and Language Acquisition.*

McGee, C. *Harnessing the Power of Extrinsic Motivation for Student Achievement: An Urban High School Improvement Effort.*

Montanez, C., & Hauser, L. *An Exploration of Flow Experiences in Secondary Education for Optimal Learning: Facilitators and Inhibitors.*

Newell, P. *Multiple Linear Regression Articles and the Article Publication Process.*

Soria, M., & Tracz, S. *The Impact of Collaboration in After-school Programs on Student Achievement and Attendance.*



Wise, D. *An Analysis of Principal Leadership Coaching in the United States.*

Yergat, J., & Tracz, S. *The Augmented Efficacy of PBS (Positive Behavior Supports) Implementation.*

In addition, Dr. Tracz chaired the Advances in Research Methodology SIG-Professors of Educational Research;

Paper Session. Those that attended would also like to thank Dr. Tracz for organizing a fabulous Fresno State Dinner at AERA.



STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

California State University, Fresno/University of California Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership (JDPEL)

Joe A. Hernandez, Ed.D. (Cohort 5) is currently Superintendent of the Dinuba Unified School District.

Sonya Hildreth, Ed.D. (Cohort 5) retired August 2011 from Humboldt State University where she held the position of Director of Student Learning Assessment. She is fulfilling a lifelong dream to travel the world with husband Russ.

Brad Lopez, Ed.D. (Cohort 3) has just completed the 4th edition of Lung and Heart Sounds, a cutting edge, technical version of lung and heart sounds, now published as an online version. The first three editions were traditional printed books. You can see this highly media-rich version at: https://evolve.elsevier.com/productPages/s_2493.html.

Marcy Masumoto, Ed.D. (Cohort 12) successfully coordinated the Exemplary Practices in Education Leadership Conference in January, 2012 for over 500 preschool through collegiate educational leaders. Next year's conference is slated for January 29, 2013. Along with her daughter, Nikiko, and husband, David Mas, Marcy is writing a cookbook for Ten Speed Press. Look for *The Perfect Peach: Recipes and Stories from the Masumoto Family Farm* in May 2013.

Ellen Surra Melocik, Ed.D. (Cohort 14) wrote and piloted the high school senior English curriculum at Clovis West High School for the 2011-2012 school year. This curriculum, which will be officially named Rhetoric and Composition for the 2012-2013 school year, focuses on graduating mainstreamed students with ELA reading and writing skills that are college and career ready. At mid-year, Clovis West High School student placement in college freshman English already surpassed Clovis West High School placement scores from the last five years.

Marilyn Meyer-Behringer, Ed.D. (Cohort 4) presented at the Society for College and University Planning conference held at Stanford University March 2012. The topic of the presentation was "Using Strategic Planning to Drive Organizational Change".

Stephen J. Ronzano, Ed.D. (Cohort 14) is currently interviewing with international school organizations in Kazakhstan for the 2012-2013 school year to work as a mentor teacher with national teachers to build new educational programs for high school students. In 2011-2012 he laid the groundwork for a new shared leadership model at The Pan American School of Bahia where he organized a group of American and Brazilian teachers to establish a Faculty Senate with certificated and classified staff for joint governance with administration.

Sally Tannenbaum, Ed.D. (Cohort 8) recently retired from the Communication Department at California State University, Fresno and stepped down from the Fresno County School Board. Sally and her husband, Peter, have moved to Santa Barbara.

Laura Tanner-McBrien, Ed.D. (Cohort 14) will be presented with a Child Advocacy Award from Comprehensive Youth Services in April, 2012.

Jerry D. Valadez, Ed.D. (Cohort 8) is now the Director of the Central Valley Science Project. In 2011, he was appointed to the National Academy Committee, "Successful K-12 STEM Education: Identifying Effective Approaches in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics." This NRC Committee conducted research from 2010-2011 on the landscape of K-12 STEM education including different STEM education school models; and practices and conditions that promote and limit school and student level success in STEM. The report and the research that lies behind it helped to identify gaps in our knowledge about STEM domains and makes recommendations for policy makers, schools, and districts to support effective K-12 STEM education. In addition, he authored two funded grants: Central Valley Science Project (\$219,000), and Sempre Energy (\$10,000).

National Research Council. (2011). *Successful K-12 STEM Education: Identifying Effective Approaches in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*. Committee on Highly Successful Science Programs for K-12 Science Education. Board on Science Education and Board on Testing and Assessment, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Christopher T. Vang, Ed.D. (Cohort 7) became Assistant Professor in 2002, Associate Professor in 2006, and full professor in 2011 at California State University, Stanislaus. His recent publications include two books: *An Educational Psychology of Methods in Multilingual Education*, published in 2010, and *An Educational Psychology of Classroom Management--Best Professional Practices in the Multicultural Classroom*, currently in print for 2012. A third book: *An Educational Psychology of Science Methods in K-6 Classrooms--Hands-on and Mind Focused Strategies for All Learners*, is coming in 2013. All three books are published by Peter Lang Publishing in New York.

Kou Yang, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) wrote *Forging New Path, Confronting New Challenges: Hmong Americans in the 21st Century*. In Vincent K. Her and Mary Louise Buley-Meissner. "Hmong and American: From Refugees to Citizens." Minnesota Historical Press (2012).

Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Fresno State (DPELFS)

Jothany Blackwood, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) was awarded the African-American Heritage Award in Education for making a significant impact within the 31st Assembly District by Assembly member Henry T. Perea (D-Fresno). Her recent presentations include:

Using Strategic Planning to Drive Organizational Change. Panel Discussion. Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) Regional Conference, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, March 2012.

Strategic Planning in Times of Declining Fiscal Resources. Panel with Dr. Deborah G. Blue, Chancellor of State Center Community College District and Dr. Fran White, College Brain Trust. Community College League of California Annual Conference, November, 2011.

Devin Blizzard, Ed.D. (Cohort 1), CEO of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) is pleased to report that CART earned a grant from Poul Du Jensen Grundfos Foundation in Denmark for \$100,000. The requirement was to develop a vision, then break it down into regional need (the problem) and research questions. He notes, "Needless to say my experiences in the cohort helped!" He also reports they are working hard at CART and with regional FIRST robotics as a community building venture.

Eileen Boland (Cohort 4) served as a panel discussant at a showing of the film "Race to Nowhere" on the Fresno State campus in November, 2011; was a presenter at the Caesar Chavez Conference in March, 2012; was a participant in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support regional conference in March, 2012. Eileen was also a Golden Key Honor Society recipient in 2011. She recently published:

Baumann, J. F., Carr Edwards, E., Boland, E. M., & Font, G. (2012). Teaching word learning strategies. In E. J. Kame'enuei, & J. F. Baumann (Eds.), *Vocabulary instruction: Research to practice* (pp. 139-168). New York, NY: Guildford Press.

Amy Brogan (Cohort 3) completed the Boston Marathon in April 2012.

Carol Curtis, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) Presented her dissertation work at the National Mathematics Teacher Retention Symposium on March 23, 2012 and at the National Council for the Study of Community Colleges conference on April 20, 2012 in Orlando, Florida. She lists these upcoming publications:

Curtis, C. (in press). Why do they choose to teach - and why do they leave? A study of middle school and high school mathematics teachers. To be published in the journal, *Education*, Volume 133, Number 2.

Curt, C. & Wise, D. (in press). Mathematics teachers speak out - why are we losing our new teachers? To be published in the *National Teacher Educational Journal*, Volume 5, Number 2.

Taryn Harmon, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) presented her dissertation research at the annual American Education Research Association (AERA) conference held in Vancouver, Canada in April, 2012.

Lisa Leininger, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) will be presenting her dissertation study at the American College of Sports Medicine National Conference being held in San Francisco in May 2012. Lisa would also like to share the news that she has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in Athletic Performance and Sports Administration in the Kinesiology Department at California State University, Monterey Bay. She will begin in Fall 2012, and move out there this summer!

JoDee Marcellin, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) presented her dissertation research at the annual American Education Research Association (AERA) conference being in Vancouver, Canada in April 2012.

Justin Miller (Cohort 3) presented his doctoral research at the conference of the California Association of Professors of Education Administration in Sacramento on March 2, 2012.

Christine Montanez, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) Academy for Civic and Entrepreneurial Leadership (ACEL) Vice Principal/Teacher was named to the 2011 “40 Under 40” list by Business Street Magazine. <http://www.acelfresno.org/montanez-named-40-under-40/>. Christine also presented her dissertation research at the annual American Education Research Association (AERA) conference held in Vancouver, Canada in April 2012.

Darlene Murray (Cohort 4) currently works as graduate research assistant for DPELFS. She also serves as a mentor for a student in the Renaissance Scholars Program.

Monica Nolasco, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) was accepted to present her dissertation research at the Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC) in Orlando, Florida in April, 2012.

John Quinto, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) is an Adjunct Professor at Fresno Pacific University. He is also a member of the Doctoral Program Policy Board, California State University, Fresno. The Provost at California State University, Fresno and the Superintendent of Fresno Unified School District recognized the national and state attention his dissertation study has received. He spoke at the Kenney Caucus Room in the Senate House and provided a briefing to the Constituent Affairs Office of Governor Brown.

Sophia Rizzo (Cohort 5) is the Vice Principal at Washington Union High School, Washington Unified School District.

Rene Rosas (Cohort 3) is serving in his third year as Principal of Wilson Elementary School in the Dinuba Unified School District. He successfully wrote and implemented a School Improvement Grant in which the school received \$351,000 in the area of professional development and technology integration to maximize student achievement. He also led Wilson Elementary School out of Program Improvement in two years. Wilson Elementary is one of 25 schools in the California who exited PI status after being in PI for more than five years.

Matilda Soria, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) presented her dissertation research at the annual American Educational Research Association held in Vancouver, Canada in April 2012.

Troy Tenhet (Bakersfield Cohort 1) is featured in an Education Week article entitled “US Schools Forge Foreign Connections Via the Web”. It highlights his activity worldwide with ePals. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/01/23/19el-globallearning.h31.html> (Look under the “Just Like Us” heading.)

Jessica Yergat, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) was named Central Unified’s Administrator of the Year for 2012.

If you would like to submit information or an article for this newsletter, please email to Ann Mayse at amayse@csufresno.edu.