

College of Education News

March 2010

DATES OF CONCERN

March 1-5	Midterm week
March 8-12	Spring Break
March 13	PRAXIS PLT exam
March 16	Rising Junior exam
March 17	College of Education Faculty Meeting in the Young Center 7:00 a.m. Happy St. Patrick's Day!
March 18	NCATE Writing Team Meeting
March 19	Preview Day
March 22	Michelle Hovland's Birthday Black Hills Teacher Fair
March 24	Chair Meeting
March 25	Dakota ASSETS Meeting Registration begins
March 26	Field Experience Governance Meeting
March 30	Janet Brigg's Birthday NCATE Writing Team Meeting

What's New with Faculty

Tim Molseed is being recommended by President Schallenkamp for promotion to full professor. Congratulations Tim! Tim's graduate students often comment on the quality of the academic discussion in his online classes and the amount of new knowledge and skills they acquire through his mentoring. Tim published *The power of continuity in graduate teacher education master's programmes* in *Educational Studies* in December 2009 and presented *Examining threaded discussion in online graduate courses* at the national MERLOT conference in California in August 2009. He has two additional professional articles in review.

Cindi Chandler is being recommended for tenure and promotion to associate professor. In addition to her excellent teaching in early childhood education, Cindi published in the prestigious *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education* and is working on a book for Heinmann Publishing. She and **Pat Simpson** are collaborating on a research project to collect and analyze data on the impact of the MSCIE program in transforming the teaching practices of MSCIE graduates. Congratulations on a well-deserved promotion and in earning tenure.

I enjoyed reading about all the faculty accomplishments in the annual PSE's. The quality of teaching in our college is exemplary; the leadership faculty and staff are providing in service to the campus, the community, and the state is noteworthy; and the research and scholarly work is more focused than ever before on issues of importance to our program, the state, and the nation. Thank you for your continuous high quality contributions.

Dean's Council News

Registration--All Regental institutions will begin registering students earlier than ever before. The spring 2011 **and** summer 2011 schedule will be determined by October 20, 2010. The purpose of the change is to give students and faculty a better opportunity to plan ahead. I anticipate that this will be challenging for our department chairs, so please help them out when they come asking about your summer 2011 plans in early October!

Counseling—Jim Fleming indicated that some students have expressed interest in having AA meetings held on the BHSU campus. The proposal is being considered. A space for group counseling should be completed after spring break.

Center for American Indian Studies—Urla Marcus indicated that BHSU was grant funded to host 30 students in fall 2011 for a transition program. The program will be a full day, week long activity prior to the start of classes with an emphasis on financial aid counseling, math and science lab work, reading and time management strategies, and community interaction. Rosalie Little Thunder will work with the students each day.

Bachelor Degree in General Studies—A new degree program is being considered at the Board of Regents level for USD, BHSU, NSU, and DSU. The Bachelor of General Studies would serve education majors who complete most of their degree requirements but realize at the point of student teaching that the teaching profession is not for them. The BGS would allow these students to graduate with a BGS degree. This degree would also serve the “ready adult” population who for one reason or another left school with over 128 credits and in good academic standing, but without completing a degree. More details will be shared pending approval in May 2010.

Dual Credit—Northern State University is no longer authorized to deliver all dual credit to the State of South Dakota. Each regional institution will manage the dual credit program with local school districts. BHSU will administer this program through Education Outreach. Rapid City Area Schools and Spearfish School District have been involved to a significant degree. Students in the public schools take college-level classes such as algebra, English, and speech for a recording fee of \$47. The district pays their teachers who have been pre-approved by the University.

Salary distribution—Discussion at the Board of Regents level is taking place to consider how a three-year performance data base can be used for determining salary distribution as funding becomes available. No decisions have been made and the planning is tentative at this point.

AACTE Annual Meeting

The annual American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education meeting was a somewhat somber event this year. The opening speaker, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, indicated that teacher education programs in Institutions of Higher Education will be closed and not federally funded unless they pay closer attention to producing teachers who can demonstrate their skill in impacting K-12 student learning. The

breakout sessions focused heavily on the US economy; 21st Century Skills which are demonstrated to a greater extent in educational systems in countries such as Finland, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia; and a national teacher performance assessment being developed at Stanford University in partnership with the Council of Chief State School Officers. There are 30 states which have already placed into policy the required use of the national teacher performance assessment which will be available within the next academic year. Some conference notes are outlined below and will be shared in more detail at the next College Faculty Meeting.

Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan

Talent matters tremendously.

We must educate our way to a healthier economy.

2,000 schools in the USA produce 50% of USA's dropouts (there are roughly 100,000 schools in the country)

The US Department of Education will fund the pathway that produces teachers who demonstrate they positively impact student learning (in reference to funding Teach for America and other alternative pathways to education or to fund Institutions of Higher Education)

Economist, Andreas Schleicher from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

Countries that produce information and new knowledge are going to be the strongest economically.

Routine cognitive knowledge is depreciating in value and demand.

Non-routine analytical skills and skills in synthesis are growing in demand. Students need to know how to apply knowledge in new and novel ways.

Non-routine interactive and collaborative skills are in demand. Students need the ability to synthesize across subject areas and the ability to filter a lot of information and explain it clearly.

Graduates will be constantly adapting, learning and growing and need to be prepared to deal with rapid change.

Countries with the strongest educational systems that produce learners with the skills outlined above are Finland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Powering Up Teacher Education to Meet 21st Century Skills

Microsoft is committed to working with teacher educators to advance educational reform and have developed an array of free products which are being tested internationally.

Products, tools and course modules can be found at www.microsoft.com.

Additional public/private partnerships are focused on research-based promising practices such as: Providing quality routes to teaching

- Recruiting career changers

- Creating robust clinical experiences including teacher residency programs

Embedding 21st century knowledge and skills

- Communication, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity