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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Dean

On September 15, 2022, Dr. Boyce C. Williams, Dean of the College of Education, hosted a Welcome Back Student Reception for students within the College. The reception gave the students an opportunity to mingle with other students from the college as well as meet the Dean and interact with faculty members of the college. Thompson Hospitality from Reston, Virginia County sponsored the reception and Chartwells prepared and served the food. Professors from Educational Professions and Kinesiology and Recreation and Parks brought their classes to the reception. Several others dropped by to meet the Dean. Many of the students commented on how exciting it was to be able to meet the Dean and faculty in an informal setting.

A Welcome Back Reception for College of Education students at the Hagerstown campus will be held later this spring. This



Boyce C. Williams, Ph. D.

corresponding event will allow students from Hagerstown campus to meet and converse with the Dean of Education.

Dr. Williams is also implementing suggestion boxes in addition to having an open-door policy for all faculty, staff, and students in the College and University.

Dean's Welcome Reception



Frostburg State University Regional Science Center & Maryland Accelerates Receive \$1.2 Million in Federal Funds

Frostburg State University will receive \$1,250,000 through direct federal funding earmarked in the \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill signed into law by President Joe Biden in December. The funding, secured through Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin (both D-MD) and Rep. David Trone (D-MD), will provide \$750,000 for the FSU Regional Science Center and \$500,000 for the FSU Maryland Accelerates Program.

FSU's Regional Science Center will provide hands-on space exploration simulations through the Challenger Learning Center, as well as robotics and coding programs for primarily middle-school-aged children in Allegany County and other regional school systems. The center will also display artifacts and personal photographs from space missions conducted by Dr. Richard Arnold II, a NASA astronaut and 1985 graduate of FSU. The center will provide a unique opportunity for students to experience STEM learning and provide an early look at STEM careers.

"We are excited to bring this opportunity to build critical STEM and 21st-century skills necessary for the careers of tomorrow to the students of Western Maryland," said Amy Hutcherson, coordinator for the FSU Regional Science Center.

FSU's Maryland Accelerates Program is a teacher residency program that provides a living stipend for students in the Master of Arts in Teaching program and pairs them with mentor teachers at participating local schools so they can serve full time for a school year as a teacher resident and earn their master's in teaching on an accelerated schedule. This program allows future teachers to develop relationships in the community and encourages retention of teachers in the area, while also supporting staffing needs at the schools. Since its launch in 2019, 35 students have been enrolled in three cohorts, representing Garrett, Washington and Frederick County Public Schools. The federal funds will help expand the program for additional cohorts and allow FSU to engage with other school systems for teacher resident placement.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to impact high-quality education for the population of Western Maryland, which often goes unnoticed, and beyond," said Boyce Williams, Dean of the Department of Education at FSU.

"Federal investments in STEM and teacher education are essential investments in the future of Maryland and our nation. I am proud we were able to request these funds specifically for such pivotal initiatives at Frostburg State," said Cardin. "Team Maryland will continue to work to provide resources that will help Marylanders live, learn and grow in a way that best fits our local community needs."



"Investing in STEM education is key to preparing our students for the jobs and the economy of the future. We delivered these funds directly to FSU to support its program to inspire students of all ages to pursue fulfilling careers in education and the sciences. These important efforts will open new doors of opportunity for our students and strengthen the economy of Western Maryland," said Van Hollen, a member of the Appropriations Committee.

"Providing every Marylander an opportunity to succeed, especially in high-skill, sought-after trades like STEM, is a win-win for all of us. Not only will these programs help develop our country's future leaders, but they will also create and fill jobs down the line in our state," said Trone. "As a member of Congress, it is my mission to work with local leaders, listen to communities and deliver results. This federal funding does just that."

"We are thankful for the support of Senators Cardin and Van Hollen and Congressman Trone," said Ronald Nowaczyk, president of FSU. "Their continued dedication to Frostburg State University helps strengthen our commitment to education in Maryland and the regional development of Western Maryland."

US Department of Education Awards College of Education \$3.5 Million

Frostburg State University's (FSU) College of Education (COE) and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) have been awarded a five-year, \$3.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for Rural Educators for Appalachian Children (REACH), a Teacher Quality Partnership project. The comprehensive project has been designed to improve student achievement and long-term outcomes and develops a comprehensive and collaborative model for strengthening the teacher career continuum in rural America. *continued on page 3.*

The College of Education Welcomes Two New Staff Members



Brandy-Bochna Tuck

After a 20 year teaching career in West Virginia, Ms. Bochna-Tuck joined the Maryland Accelerates team as the Clinical Project Coordinator. Ms. Bochna-Tuck is also a Nationally Board Certified Teacher. She resides in Morgantown, W.V. with her husband (an educator) and their two children.



Heidi McKenzie, school counseling major, has joined the Maryland Accelerates team as the Clinical Project Graduate Media Assistant. Ms. McKenzie and her husband reside in Rawlings, M.D.

Under REACH, FSU will begin a new dual certification special education and elementary teacher preparation program. The project will partner with select high-need schools in Allegany County (MD), Mineral County (WV), Morgan County (WV), Pendleton County (WV), and Turkeyfoot Valley Areas School District (PA).

REACH will result in increases in the number of highly effective, culturally responsive teachers for special education in Appalachia, and improve teacher access, recruitment, preparation, support, induction, retention, and advancement, while validating the impact of a national model.

To achieve its goals, REACH will concentrate on four focused strategies:

- (1) **Co-Implemented, Clinically Based Dual Certification Program** REACH will offer a co-Implemented, clinically based undergraduate dual certification program in special education and elementary education.
- (2) **Two-Year Induction Program** The program will feature a two-year induction period including targeted professional learning and microcredentials on the science of reading, classroom management, and culturally responsive teaching for all program graduates who teach in partner schools.
- (3) **Teacher Leader Pathway** REACH will also implement a teacher leader pathway for teacher mentors, induction coaches, and any teacher in partnering schools interested in pursuing National Board Certification.
- (4) **MegaCommunity for Systemic Capacity and Linkage Building** The project will be governed by a MegaCommunity for systemic capacity and linkage building involving more than 20 organizations to leverage cross-sector expertise and resources.

Together, these strategies will allow REACH to enhance the teacher career continuum. At the same time, the program will help realize multi-state priorities in preparing and retaining diverse, highly effective teachers in critical shortage areas while responding to the Blueprint for MD's Future, a comprehensive piece of legislation designed to elevate Maryland's education system to internationally benchmarked standards, as well as WV's Professional Learning Framework, and PA's Code of Professional Practice.

The program is grounded in a comprehensive needs assessment of FSU's surrounding districts, completed in 2021 (Baker, in press), as well as state and national research that shows it is vital to reduce achievement gaps among underserved students in high-need rural settings, make systemic changes to improve teaching and learning in the United States, and keep up with changing demands on students, teachers, and schools (Martin et al., 2015). Dr. Boyce Williams, Dean of FSU's College of Education says, "The REACH project is an exciting new endeavor for the College of Education. We are so pleased to be able to meet the needs of our surrounding districts and the students they serve, and we are enthusiastic about our collaboration in high-need schools."

Building upon common goals and leveraged resources among partnering agencies as well as promising practices from a graduate-level TQP grant awarded in 2019, the partnership is well-positioned to successfully impact the teacher career continuum and student achievement in the region.

The proposal earned a perfect score from the federal Department of Education, with extra points awarded for (1) increasing educator diversity, (2) supporting a diverse educator workforce and professional growth to strengthen student learning, (3) meeting teacher candidates' social, emotional, and academic needs, and (4) promoting equity in student access to educational resources and opportunities.

REACH aims to increase the diversity of teacher candidates entering the teacher preparation program through targeted recruitment as well as support through a newly established REACH Teacher Education Advising and Support Center within the College of Education.

REACH will serve 120 teacher candidates and 210 additional educators, for a total of 330 adults and approximately 10,000 students served over the next five years.

College of Education



Translating 'Trauma' via 'Micro-credential'

Dr. Jenna Epstein and Dr. Jodi Eirich are working on TIMRP trauma informed classroom management and restorative discipline practices in Garrett County Schools. 'They've created a micro-credential to help first year teachers/ fellows/coaches with a sense of self-efficacy in being able to describe and utilize evidence-based practices that promote the parallel process of belonging for themselves and their students through focusing on how all of us are uniquely diverse individuals requiring unique systems of support.' They are collecting study data on how those participating in the micro credential could reduce burn-out.



Dr. Martin Barrett



Dr. Jeffrey Farr



Rachel West, Graduate Assistant

Maryland Accelerates Pilots GoReact

The College of Education retreat in January featured presentations on recruitment, retention, and on GoReact. This online video assessment platform could forever change the way people teach, develop, and (in the words of GoReact) 'empower, confident skills.' Working in tandem with any LTI-compliant LMS or learning platform, GoReact provides the ability for the user to give personalized, time-relevant feedback during a presentation, class lesson, or exercise sports management demonstration for example. Dr. Jennifer Bishoff is currently piloting strategies to make use of this platform in the MAT-S program with Dr. Maureen Hamilton utilizing it for supervision and observation. We anticipate follow-up with their initiatives in the Spring.

Recreation and Parks Management Program Updates

Parks Mgt. Dr. Natalia Buta began her sabbatical in January, 2023. Dr. Jeffrey Farr is serving as Interim Chair for the Undergraduate program, and Dr. Martin Barrett is serving as Department Chair for the Graduate program.

In Fall 2022, the Recreation and Parks Management Program welcomed Rachel West as the Program's Graduate Assistant.

Dr. Farr and the Recreation Society, the student-led organization housed in Recreation and Parks Management, hosts fun-filled Fall events. In addition to several off-campus outings including bowling and an ill-fated paintball trip thwarted on five separate occasions by weather, students associated with the Rec Society helped plan and host the COE Homecoming tailgate party, operated a campus clean-up, and generated multiple other opportunities for students to gather and take some time away from stress of classes and other responsibilities.

Dr. Farr would like to give special thanks to the Rec Society president Zac Perkins for his unending enthusiasm and to graduating members Ryan Hoskinson and Grant Roth, who helped bring the society back from the dead following COVID.



Dr. Barrett took his Sport Promotion and Communication students to the Altoona Curve game.

Old Habits Die Hard

Students in multiple Recreation and Parks courses headed back into the field to get some experiential learning. Students in Dr. Jeff Farr and Dr. Martin Barrett's classes helped FSU Athletics with gameday operations, serving as the crew for multiple sports, including Field Hockey and Men's and Women's Soccer.

Dr. Diane Blankenship and her leadership course welcomed the George Washington University Upward Bound program back to campus for a second consecutive semester to get a look at what FSU and the Recreation and Parks department have to offer. Students were treated to one-on-one mentorship, opportunities to get active, a campus tour, and even some Homecoming snacks. Dr. Blankenship also has plans to take the show on the road in the spring, with an excursion planned to meet the GWUB program in one of our many state parks for some outdoor education and fun.

Lastly, Dr. Farr's Program Planning students partnered with the City of Frostburg in hosting the local Halloween event. Following a two-year COVID hiatus, this year's event saw the return of the haunted house in addition to the games, candy, and pumpkin decorating fun that never left!

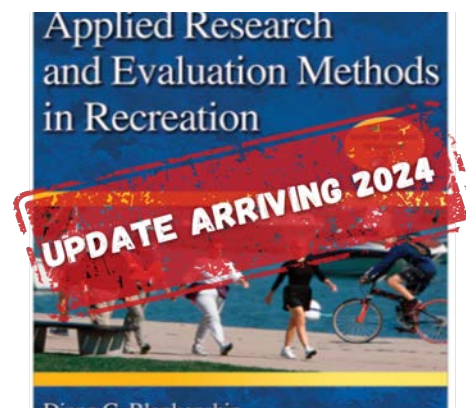


Dr. Farr's Program Planning students Halloween Festivities

Giving Back to the University and Field

In publishing news, Drs. Blankenship, Buta, and Farr have agreed to terms with Human Kinetics to collectively author an update of Dr. Blankenship's textbook, *Applied Research and Evaluation Methods in Recreation*, which should hit bookshelves in time for Fall 2024.

Dr. Farr was also included as a coauthor on a manuscript submitted to the *Sport Management Education Journal* concerning student memberships in professional associations and is also nearing completion on an invited book review for the *Journal of Sport Management*.



Dr. Blankenship-Author

Other Quick Notes

- Jennifer Chisholm celebrated one year as the Administrative Assistant for both the Parks and Recreation and Kinesiology departments in early January. She has been an invaluable addition and we couldn't be happier with the way she helps hold this department together.
- We welcomed 27 new students into the Master of Science in Recreation, Parks, and Sport Management program in the fall. We also got to say a cheerful goodbye to five students leaving this program, who graduated and walked during December Commencement.
- We also said cheerful goodbyes to 15 students that completed their degree requirements and walked during December Commencement.
- While this deserves a longer note, we will save that for later, but Spring 2023 marks the end of an era for the FSU Recreation and Parks Department, as it will be Dr. Diane Blankenship's last before retirement. Dr. Blankenship has been a key element of our department for over two decades and, while we are excited for her next journey, we are also not looking forward to saying goodbye.

Children's Literature Center Updates

Stay tuned for the 20th
Storybook Holiday
December 2, 2023!



Elves hard at work...



Celebrated guest author Will
Hillenbrand

College of Education



Storybook Holiday

On December 3rd, 2022 the Children's Literature Centre and the City of Frostburg held the 19th annual Storybook Holiday. Once again, the City of Frostburg was transformed into a magical experience for children and families. From Breakfast with the Elves, to the Storybook Holiday parade, Elf Olympics, the Elves' Secret Workshop, Letters to Santa, and everything in between, this year's Storybook Holiday was one that will not soon be forgotten. Over 2,000 people joined in on the festivities during this year's extra special Storybook Holiday, as we welcomed not only those who participated in the event, but also the filming and production crew from UpTV's Small Town Christmas. Storybook Holiday was featured in the season finale of Small Town Christmas this year, with the Storybook Holiday episode airing on UpTV on December 18th. The episode highlighted the magic of the event, as well as our incredible town, its businesses and people, and was a fabulous experience for all involved. Storybook Holiday could not exist without the invaluable support of FSU students, staff, volunteers, local businesses, organizations, and our generous sponsors. We are grateful to all who contribute to it's success each year.



Community members of Frostburg coming together with the CLC on National Television for 2023's Storybook Holiday!

Adopt-a-School Program

The CLC is continuing their Adopt-a-School program. The staff at the CLC make monthly visits to our adopted school to share and read aloud the most current children's books. The school also has access to all the books that are located in the Children's Literature Centre (over 12,000 books in the collection). They are given the opportunity to propose for CLC staff to do an in-service/workshop with teachers that focuses on the newest children's literature. Each semester, students at the adopted school attend age-specific author/illustrator presentations. School staff members are encouraged to participate in CLC events that are held throughout the year. The adopted school changes every two years. The current school is Flintstone Elementary School. In order for a school to qualify for the Adopt-a-School program, they must be an elementary school and be within a 40-mile radius of Frostburg State University. Flintstone Elementary School was recognized at the Spring Festival of Children's Literature in 2022 and was provided with a banner that recognized their partnership in literacy with the CLC. Schools that have been part of the Adopt-a-School program in the past include Beall Elementary, Bel Air Elementary School, South Penn Elementary School, and Wiley Ford Primary School.

The evening of February 4, 2023 marked our 8th annual Harry Potter Book Night. This year's event was sponsored by the Children's Literature Centre, Lewis J. Ort Library, the University Lane Center, the Theater Department, and Chartwell's. Harry Potter Book Night is Bloomsbury Publishing's annual global celebration of J.K. Rowling's famed series. An estimated 400 children and adults attended the event this year. This was a free in-person event for families to experience the world of Harry Potter. Children attended multiple classes, based upon their assigned Hogwarts's House, adventured in Diagonal Alley where they shopped for supplies, sampled Bertie Bott's Every Flavored Beans, entered the costume contest, met other wizards, won prizes, competed for the house cup, and developed their wizarding skills. The CLC staff looks forward to seeing all wizards next year on Feb. 3, 2024!



Adopt-a-School Program Unites



Harry Potter Book Night



Faculty Highlights

Dr. Jodi Welsch presented at the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) in November of 2022. She collaborated with colleagues at the Virginia Commonwealth University on 'text types for literary instruction.' Dr. Martin Barrett impacted the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA) by elaborating on "Divisional Reclassification within Intercollegiate Athletics: A Continuous Online Case-Based Learning Approach."

Doctoral Program faculty member Michael R. Williams co-authored two articles in *Advances in Developing Human Resources*: "An Inclusive Leadership Model: Insights from the Tech Industry" was co-authored with Dante L. Booker and "Meeting Belongingness Needs: An Inclusive Leadership Practitioner's Approach" was co-authored with Aimee L. Canlas.

Drs. Michael Williams, Seniz Celimli-Aksoy, Heather Hurst, and Gerald Kiel presented at the Convening Conference of the Center on Postsecondary Education and Disability (CPED) in Pittsburgh, P.A. They discussed a revolutionary group practicum experience in 2020 for their Doctoral students.

FSU Ed.D. graduate Mark Chimel, Ed.D. ('20), and program faculty member Heather Hurst, Ph.D., published their second co-authored article, *Practitioner Inquiry to Develop Antiracist Advising Practice: Investigating Issues of Equity and Access in the NACADA Review*. Dr. Chimel and Dr. Hurst's article can be viewed here: <https://doi.org/10.12930/NACR-20-05>



Jen Delaney received the President's Distinguished Staff Award

Staff Spotlight

Jen Delaney, assessment program specialist in the College of Education, deservedly accepted the President's Distinguished Staff Award on September 15, 2022. The *StateLines*, v53, n15, 12/12/22 issue quoted President Nowaczyk as saying "...She took a leadership role in organizing large amounts of assessment data and presented it in a well-organized system—allowing the department to be well-prepared for this essential function." The COE received accreditation reaffirmation by CAEP the Fall of 2022.

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**Submit news to Heidi
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for the next issue.**

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Jenna Epstein, NCC, LPC, ACS, CTRS, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Education, and the M.Ed Programs School Counseling Liaison. She resides in Bedford County, PA with her husband and two sons. In addition to her active role at FSU, she serves as the Red Cross Pa Mountains Chapter Disaster Mental Health coordinator and a member of the Integrated Care Condolence and Mass Casualty teams. She is the in-house counselor for her local EMS Station where she provides pro bono complex trauma counseling to first responders. Dr. Epstein has a love of research and aims to serve the entire counseling community through studies related to Trauma and posttraumatic Growth in Counselors, the role of Neuroscience in the field, Creative Metacognition, and Spiritual and Religious Integration in Counseling and Counselor Identity. Outside of her professional life, Jenna loves spending time with her three boys, kayaking, cooking, and traveling.



Dr. Jenna Epstein-Depiction for series entitled "Women of Eleos." (Eleos is the Greek god of mercy and compassion). Artwork by Tiffany Arnett (School of Counseling Major)

Post-Master's Certificate Appalachian Sematic Unit and Festival

Post Master's Certificate (PMC) Student and event organizer extraordinaire Isaac Lewis holds an Appalachian Festival November 10, 2022 at Hampshire High School. As a member of the first Cohort for the Post-master's Educational Leadership Certification course, Isaac is tasked with creating a project that highlights several of the strategic initiatives for the program. Some of the required initiatives are collaboration with the teachers and administrators as well as accountability to the curriculum. Isaac applies the theory he is learning in the university to practice, creating a school-wide Sematic Unit on the culture of Appalachia, and engaging the entire community in the process. Through strategic and deliberate collaboratives, he showcases the various enterprises that exist in Appalachia, and he uses the forum to build an economic base for sustainability in the community.

Isaac partnered with the Curriculum director to discuss associations between community Appalachian lifestyle models and school subjects. For instance, Isaac explains how quilting (an activity of the Appalachian people) involves the geometry of exact angles and transcribing tessellations. His ability to inform on the Appalachian lifestyle, while including and utilizing the community craftsmanship like knitting, canning, cooking, sauerkraut production, and even musicians to name only a few, exemplifies the very best of our fight to 'grow our own administrators in West Virginia,' said Dr. Curtis Baker. Capitalizing on the signature crafts, Isaac demonstrates how the people of Appalachia thrive and make a living. Isaac began his endeavor by asking the question that should arguably plague the minds of all teachers, which is 'Is it gonna change students' lives/is it gonna move them forward?'

College of Education

