

UNIT REPORT

Annual Highlights Report

Generated: 7/23/18, 8:34 AM

Annual Report: Department of Reading and Elementary Education**NON-ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS ONLY: Highlights of the Year:****A1. Highlights Related to AA Goal 1: Educate a diverse student body through an integrated academic experience that positions graduates for personal success and civic responsibility in the global environment of the 21st century.:**

- The pass rates on edTPA of candidates enrolled in the B.A. in Elementary Education program exceeded 90% during the academic year.
- Integrated Methods Block Pilot - One cohort of candidates (n = 24) in each semester during the academic year participated in a pilot program within the Integrated Methods Block. Within the pilot, candidates engaged in coursework that was taught at clinical locations while the course instructors worked with teachers to model instructional practices described in coursework. Furthermore, the instructors provided professional development at the schools that participated and co-taught in the K-6 classrooms.
- The department continued to actively send candidates into the field to gain authentic experiences working with children in urban contexts. Over 149 undergraduate elementary education majors completed 10 hours of math tutoring in urban settings within Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Furthering our partnership with the district, more than 40 students completed their clinical experiences in CMS-designated "cultural proficiency" schools. Finally, within the Integrated Methods Block pilot, students spent more than 70 hours within their clinical experiences in one semester at Nathaniel Alexander and Morehead STEP Academy.
- Twenty-two candidates earned a state-level credential for teaching mathematics as part of an NC Quest grant. All students were scored as proficient or advanced on the designated artifacts.
- The department completed development and approval of the Applied Understanding in Global Education minor, which began accepting students in Fall 2017. Continuing to be a leader in study abroad within the College, two programs (Germany and South Africa) delivered by REEL faculty successfully recruited candidates (n = 32) for opportunities to study abroad in 2018.
- More than 150 students participated in the Curriculum Showcase, an event co-sponsored by the Department of Reading and Elementary Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. At the event, candidates were able to interact directly with curriculum specialists within the district to learn about various facets of curriculum and instruction that are unique to CMS. The featured speaker at the Showcase this spring was CMS Superintendent, Dr. Clayton Wilcox.

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above:: External Partnerships
 Student Success
 New Educational Programs
 External Public Relations/Outreach

A2. Highlights Related to AA Goal 2: To expand the frontiers of knowledge and leverage discovery for the public benefit through innovative programs that span the disciplines in research, creative activities, and graduate education.:

- Collectively, the faculty in the Department of Reading and Elementary Education published 9 books, 19 book chapters, and 33 journal articles. This includes three book chapters and five journal articles with students. There are an additional twelve publications "under review" or "in development" that were also co-authored with students.
- Dr. Erik Byker was selected as a Global Education Fellow by Global Teacher Education Inc. and examined the development of global competence through instruction in social studies methods coursework.
- Sixteen students from programs within the Department of Reading and Elementary Education presented research at the Undergraduate Research Conference. Paige Burchard won the Atkins Library Award for her study.

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above:: External Partnerships
 Student Success
 Faculty Success
 External Public Relations/Outreach
 Faculty Development

A3. Highlights Related to AA Goal 3: To engage community partners in mutually beneficial programs that enhance the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the region.:

- Dr. Drew Polly continued to work closely with HEART tutoring to support mathematics understanding for students in the HEART program. His estimate, based on the number of tutors and schools visited, is that more than 150 students in CMS have been impacted this year.
- Dr. Tehia Starker worked with Race Matters for Juvenile Justice to facilitate presentations for the Catalyzing Change Group. She estimates that more than 75 community members were impacted by this work.
- Dr. Anne Cash conducted an evaluation of the Literacy Through Photography program, called Project UNITE. This project was implemented by The Light Factory and supported by CrossRoads Corporation and Unite Charlotte. The evaluation involved a classroom observation, student surveys, and conversations with the teachers and community center director. It resulted in a technical report summarizing the findings and providing recommendations for next steps.
- Dr. Ian Binns taught classes on science and religion at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter and All Saints Episcopal Church. Fifty people participated in these classes.
- Under the direction of Drs. Bruce Taylor and Erin Miller, America READS continued to be a successful community outreach program. Currently, there are more than 50 federal work study tutors working with children at three different elementary schools sites.

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above:: External Partnerships

Faculty Success

External Public Relations/Outreach

Faculty Development

B. Examples of Data-Based Improvements During the Year:

1. Given low pass rates on the North Carolina General Curriculum: Mathematics subtest, the Department successfully worked with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to develop a plan to address these pass rates. All candidates enrolled in the B.A. in Elementary Education will be required to complete MATH 1340 and MATH 1341, which will be delivered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Subsequently, the Department of Reading and Elementary Education will deliver MAED 3222 and MAED 3224, which are focused on math instruction and pedagogy, and incorporate edTPA Task 4.
2. Based on performance data relative to edTPA Task 3, which was the lowest of the three literacy tasks, the instructors of the Year-Long Internship modified the delivery of the clinical experiences in the semester and engaged in specific efforts to more effectively integrate the three tasks across courses. Notably, as originally structured, candidates completed and submitted all tasks separately and received feedback from individual instructors on each task. By modifying the timing of the clinical experience, candidates were expected to be able to more effectively align Tasks 1 and 3, improving performance on the latter. Additionally, with the revised structure, candidates received feedback from multiple instructors on their edTPA artifacts, which was expected to improve performance.
3. Due to declining enrollments in the M.Ed. in Elementary Education program, Drs. Amy Good and Michael Putmabn worked directly with the Graduate School to secure funding for the delivery of a hybrid cohort for up to 30 graduate students. The application recently opened and enrollment is ongoing.

Major Accomplishments: Discussion:

- Dr. Amy Good was nominated for the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence.
- Dr. Erik Byker was named a Global Education Fellow by Global Teacher Education Inc.
- Dr. Ian Binns was named a fellow for Sinai and Synapses, which is focused on elevating the discourse around science and religion.
- Dr. Stephen Hancock gave the keynote address at the California Association of African American Educators Summer Institute at Stanford University.
- Dr. Brian Kissel was selected to teach an intensive seminar in Ludwigsburg, Germany, through the ERASMUS program.
- Dr. Erin Miller received the 2017 Social Justice in Education Award from the National Council of Teachers of English.
- Drs. Adriana Medina and Brian Kissel worked with the Charlotte Teachers Institute to lead seminars for practicing teachers on arts integration and writing, respectively.
- Integrated Methods Block Pilot - One cohort of candidates (n = 24) in each semester during the academic year participated in a pilot program within the Integrated Methods Block. Within the pilot, candidates engaged in coursework that was taught at clinical locations while the course instructors worked with teachers to model instructional practices described in coursework. Furthermore, the instructors provided professional development at the schools that participated and co-taught in the K-6 classrooms.
- Completion of the Elementary Education Handbook, which articulates the progression of skills and knowledge candidates will develop as they complete each phase of the undergraduate and graduate certificate programs. The Handbook is focused on five areas: Instructional Design, Assessment, Diversity, Classroom Environment, and Technology. Furthermore, the Handbook provides common definitions for specific vocabulary that is applicable during program completion.

Start: 07/01/2017**End:** 06/30/2018**Progress:** On Track**Providing Department:** Reading & Elementary ED