

UNIT REPORT

**Special Ed & Child Dev -
Highlights Report**

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Special Education and Child Development Department 2022-23

Start: 07/01/2022

End: 06/30/2023

Providing Department: Special Ed & Child Dev

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: THEME A - EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EXCELLENCE:***Completed an External Evaluation of the Ph.D. in Special Education Program***

In summer 2022, the Ph.D. in Special Education Program completed the final phase of the three-phase process (self-study, external review, report and action plan) led by faculty (Wood, Mazzotti, Pennington, Spooner) and a doctoral student representative (Haas). Our report has become a model for two other doctoral programs in the college that are currently going through the review process.

Received Highest Score in the NC System for Alignment with the Science of Reading

In fall 2022, TPI-US (an outside evaluation agency) completed a state-mandated review of all literacy courses in teacher preparation programs in North Carolina. SPCD and REEL submitted a summary and analysis of literacy courses in their departments. Dr. Erin FitzPatrick and Dr. Kristen Beach submitted their course materials, video-recorded class sessions, and participated in interviews with the TPI-US team. This evaluation led to the Cato College of Education being recognized as the highest-ranking college in the NC system and the only college with a "Strong" rating for course alignment with the science of reading.

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above::

Undergraduate Student Success (high impact practices, mentoring)

Graduate student and postdoc support (mentoring, research, training, and professional development)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: THEME B - INQUIRY, RESEARCH, AND CREATIVE DISCOVERY:***Faculty Scholarship***

Department faculty (n = 23) in SPCD had a substantial number of publications in 2022 and maintained a high level of scholarly productivity. Fifty-one of 74 (70%) publications appeared in peer-reviewed journals, and several publications included our doctoral students as co-authors.

Ranked the Highest Grant-Receiving Department at UNC Charlotte

SPCD faculty secured new grants and continued implementing externally funded grant projects such as NACT-C, CIRCLES, INTACT, TIES, Project IMPACT, 5E Model PD, Student-Centered Transitions Network, Belk Foundation and Mebane Foundation funding for reading initiatives, CCR4T, US Department of Education Leadership Grants, NC-DPI grants, SIS-C, and Project Social Code. Our department (SPCD) was ranked the highest grant-receiving department at UNC Charlotte.

Internal and External Grants awarded in 2022 totaled \$4,150,521.00

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above:: Grant seeking - faculty or students

Research in a signature research area

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: THEME C - NORTH CAROLINA:

Eighteen faculty members in SPCD supported and collaborated with 29 different school districts, schools, or agencies in the community.

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above:: Collaboration and Support for K-12 education**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: THEME D - EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY:**

Faculty participated in a department-level syllabi audit related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Following the audit, faculty completed Inclusion Infusion modules created by faculty member Dr. Gloria Campbell-Whatley.

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above: Diversity, equity, and inclusion**Examples of Data-Based Improvements :**

Each program used Student Learning Outcome data to set goals for the next academic year.

Other Major Accomplishments: :***Proposed the Mebane Early Literacy Center***

Over the past several months a team from the Cato College of Education developed a proposal to create the Mebane Early Literacy Center to be housed in the Cato College of Education. Cato College of Education team members included Erin Washburn, Kristen Beach (**SPCD**), Sam Gesel (**SPCD**), Miranda Fitzgerald, Teresa Petty, Charlie Wood (**SPCD**), Lan Kolano, and Mike Putman. Dean Butler, Chancellor Gaber, and Penny Hawkins and her team from University Advancement provided excellent support. Three universities in North Carolina competed for funding as the Mebane Foundation planned to sunset their foundation and turn all assets over to one university. The Cato College of Education was the recipient of this endowment (the largest endowment UNC Charlotte has received).

Diversity Initiatives:

In May 2023, the Department of Special Education and Child Development (SPCD) co-sponsored an event with the college's Committee for Equity, Justice, and Belonging (C4EJB) to view the Crip Camp documentary film and lead a discussion about disability rights and advocacy.

Supporting Documentation: Attached Files[SPCD Jan 2022 Dec 2022.pdf](#)

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