Message from the dean

Welcome to the 2009/2010 academic year! This is a very important year for the college as faculty and staff prepare for our regularly scheduled review in March by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. Reaccreditation is a natural part of the life cycle of an education unit and an exciting challenge. Actually, WSU already successfully completed about half of the requirements when the college education programs received approval this spring from the Kansas State Department of Education program review.

What’s going to happen next? Faculty and staff will be gathering additional information about how we create and deliver our education programs and how we connect with our many community partners. This information will be recorded in an institutional report which will be presented to the NCATE site team before their visit to campus. After their visit, the team will write a report for us telling how well we are doing in our effort to continuously improve our education programs.

What does it mean for students? Education students will be asked to participate by becoming familiar with the college vision and the conceptual framework that supports our coursework and field experiences. When the site team arrives, students also may be asked to participate in interviews where team members will ask about classes, field experiences, and about the conceptual framework. To help students learn more about the conceptual framework, we’ve put up posters, created LCD slides, and passed out copies of the CF in classes this fall. Next, we’ll be reviewing the conceptual framework in classes as we move closer to the site visit.

What do students get out of all this? Becoming a professional educator is more than simply believing in the power of education to change the world. It’s learning and performing the principles that support a high quality competent, collaborative, and reflective educator. If you are asked, responding to a faculty member from another university about what we believe about education at WSU, will be simple for you and will help you on your road toward becoming a highly qualified professional. Plus, you’ll also be helping the college greatly.

Why does the college want to be accredited? Accreditation is a process for assessing and improving academic quality. Through NCATE accreditation a university is recognized by other universities and the general public as meeting national standards and operating at a high level of educational integrity.

What's the last word? The WSU College of Education is proud to hold continuous accreditation through NCATE since 1954. Accreditation is part of our heritage and current commitment to students. Plus, we’ll have a big party when the review is over!!
Welcome Dr. Janice Ewing

Dr. Janice Ewing is the new chair of the college’s department of curriculum and instruction. Dr. Ewing holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of British Columbia, a master’s degree in speech and language pathology from Washington State University, and a Ph.D. in elementary education with a specialization in early childhood education from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Ewing served as chair of the department of social sciences and education at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, NH for the past eight years, and served as coordinator of its teacher preparation programs. She also taught undergraduate and graduate courses and supervised intern and practicum students. Before that, Dr. Ewing taught and supervised students at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for four years.

We are pleased to have Dr. Ewing on our team.

Ruth Bohlken, director of the Center for Physical Activity and Aging performs a bone density analysis for client, Maxine Fast.

This, and other testing is done in the Human Performance Laboratory, providing services to the community and aiding in research to benefit the physical fitness of older adults.

ATTENTION PRAXIS TAKERS

The Praxis tests are coming up soon, and September 12 kicks off the new testing year with changes to the Praxis program. The one change that will impact almost all examinees: Praxis has a new policy of no cell phones, BlackBerries, PDAs, or any other electronic device in the testing center. That means that examinees cannot bring these items into the building with them – they may not have them on their person, in a bag or purse, and testing staff cannot collect and hold any of these devices for test-takers.

For most examinees, leaving items in the car may be a good option, but for those who may walk, be dropped off, or take public transportation, they will have to leave these items at home. If they have an item with them but cannot store it, they cannot take the test, and if they are observed with a prohibited item during a test or break, they will be dismissed, their test scores will be cancelled, and no refunds will be given.
Benders of Twigs

Congratulations to Jane Eshelman, Administrative Specialist in the Education Support Services office and Dr. Nancy McKellar, associate professor in the Counseling, Educational and School Psychology Department who were both recognized recently as Benders of Twigs—an award made to those who have given 25 years of service to Wichita State University.

One of the originators of the Bender of Twigs ceremony was Dr. Harry Corbin (our college home namesake). The name is meant to convey the idea that faculty and staff lead students toward knowledge, much as a twig is bent toward the sunlight.

---

I’ve had a great experience with both the master’s program and now the district level program. Using experience as a major part of the teaching model motivated me to apply and complete the master’s program in education leadership. That same focus on using experience as a catalyst to learning pulled me to complete the district level class work as well. The task of learning while doing is challenging because many times those who complete the program are not in a working capacity to naturally step into tasks related to the learning objectives. Creating the tasks to complete is part of the challenge which makes completing the work rigorous.

- Josh Schwarz
  Educational Leadership graduate student

Dr. Ruth Hitchcock, professor in the department of Counseling, Educational and School Psychology observes as students in her Professional School Counseling class demonstrate sandplay therapy.