WSU College of Education is comprised of five departments whose synergy provides powerful understanding of lifespan development and academic innovation in living and learning.

We believe in the POWER of education to change the world.

We prepare teachers, school professionals, counselors, educational psychologists, exercise and sport professionals for 21st century careers.

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The College of Education Play Therapy Center at Wichita State University recently earned designation as an Approved Center of Play Therapy Education by the Association for Play Therapy (APT). The Center was established in September by its director, Dr. Ruth Hitchcock an associate professor in the department of counseling, education and school psychology (CESP), with collaboration from Dr. Rick Gaskill who teaches play therapy classes, child psychopathology, and supervises play therapy practica within the CESP department.

Play therapy is a form of mental health counseling or psychotherapy used by licensed mental health professionals to better communicate with and help clients achieve optimal mental health. APT recently launched its Approved Center program to acknowledge those universities generating substantial play therapy research, publications, graduate instruction, supervised clinical experiences, supervisor training, and other programs.

The requirements of the approval include offering 36 hours of play therapy graduate instruction, a practicum each semester, annual supervisor training course and the generation of articles and presentations.

The COED appreciates the efforts of Dr. Hitchcock, the CESP faculty and especially Dr. Gaskill, our community partner in this worthy endeavor.
WSU pledges to increase math & science teachers

WSU President Donald Beggs joined with other public research university leaders in pledging to address the national shortage of science and mathematics teachers through the Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative (SMTI) in a letter presented to President Barack Obama.

SMTI encompasses 121 universities in 41 states, and is sponsored by the Association of Public and Landgrant Universities. The aim of SMTI is to increase the quality and number of science and mathematics teachers the institutions prepare annually.

Dr. Danny Bergman, program chair of secondary science education programs, Dr. Terry Behrendt, senior fellow who writes and administers grants and teaches in the Transition to Teaching program, along with Dean Iorio, attended the first SMTI meeting in Boulder, Colorado in May 2009. Since then, Dr. Bergman is leading efforts to actively recruit science education candidates. Sandy Peer, chair of the math education programs at COEd has worked with Future Educators of America (FEA) groups and has made presentations to Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) groups in high schools, encouraging students to consider teaching as a career.

More scholarships are being made available to students who major in science and math education programs. Contact the WSU Office of Financial Aid for information.

It’s Time for Shocker MINDSTORMS Challenge!

The annual Shocker MINDSTORMS Challenge is a collaboration among the Colleges of Engineering and Education at Wichita State University, and local industry professionals. This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Heskett Center.

The Challenge provides young students with the opportunity for practical application and exhibition of math, science, programming, and engineering skills, as well as promoting teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship. Teams of fourth through eighth grade students from across the state of Kansas have the opportunity to complete Mission Challenges designed by WSU engineering students.

The WSU Shocker MINDSTORMS Challenge is a community event and all are invited and encouraged to attend. This is the culminating event of many months of planning and learning by students, coaches, teachers, and volunteers at all levels.

Please sign up on-line to Volunteer for Shocker Mindstorms!
Mike Ross added to Sport Management faculty

Mike Ross has joined the full-time faculty in the Department of Sport Management. He has spent the last 10 years working in the WSU athletic department and has previously taught two Sport Management courses as a part-time lecturer. Mike will instruct three courses this semester and supervise students conducting practicum and internship assignments.

Mike received his bachelor’s degree in sport administration in 2002 and his master’s degree in sport administration in 2006. Both degrees are from WSU. From 2001 to 2004, he served as a media relations assistant in WSU athletics, and for the past six years, he has worked as an assistant director of media relations.

“I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to join the Sport Management faculty at WSU,” Mike said. “I’ve watched this department grow from several different perspectives – as a student, as a practitioner and as a lecturer. Now I have the chance to work with the students in this program and watch them grow on a daily basis and that is something I look forward to greatly.”

New Student Assistant in ESS Office

Dori Stevens is the new friendly face at the reception desk in the Education Support Services office. She will be answering phones, greeting visitors and assisting the staff in keeping things running smoothly in ESS. Dori is a junior in Elementary Education.

There is another student assistant position open in ESS. Those who are interested in applying can call 978-3300.
Faculty publications, presentations

♦ Dr. Michael Rogers coauthored a paper along with colleagues from Nagoya City University in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* (volume 6, issue 4, pages 467-474) titled “Efficacy of an accelerometer-guided physical activity intervention in community-dwelling older women”. The paper evaluates the efficacy of a lifestyle physical activity intervention on improving quantity and quality (intensity) of daily physical activity (for example, walking) as well as cardio-respiratory endurance in community-dwelling older women in Japan.

Dr. Nobuo Takeshima from Nagoya City University and three of his graduate students recently visited Wichita State for a week. The WSU College of Education has a formal partnership with Nagoya City University in which faculty members from Human Performance Studies collaborate with them on studies of physical activity and aging. While visiting, Dr. Takeshima and Dr. Michael Rogers worked on analyzing data from studies they recently completed and planned a new study that was recently funded which will involve Dr. Rogers working in Japan this June.


♦ Dr. Nikki Currie was elected President of the Kansas Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors. She also attended the International Conference on Social Science Research where she presented a paper based on her dissertation, “A case study of incarcerated males participating in a canine training program.”

Dr. Currie has recently been appointed scholarship reviewer for the Barbara Gazda scholarship for the Association of Specialists in Group Work, a division of the American Counseling Association.