NCATE visit a wonderful success

The KSDE/NCATE Board of Examiners site visit to Wichita State included interviews with students, faculty, staff and community supporters from schools and non-profit organizations. All of this support helped make our visit a great success. The Board of Examiners announced that they will recommend that all standards examined during their review of WSU were fully met with no areas for improvement. Thanks to all who contributed to the site visit. The site visit report will be examined by the NCATE Unit Accreditation Board in October and the Kansas State Board Education in January 2011, after which a final reaccreditation decision will be announced.

About a hundred people responded to our invitation to celebrate with us at the Marcus Welcome Center on April 1. Cheers and thank yous were provided by President Beggs, Provost Miller and others. We topped off the party with disco lights and confetti provided by our DJ, Principal of Irving Elementary School, Larry Perlman. Dances from the 50s, 60s and 70s were demonstrated by some faculty and staff, culminating in an NCATE conga line, which closed down the party at 6 p.m.

The NCATE Board of Examiners recommendation will mark the 54th year of continuous accreditation for WSU. Again, a special thanks to our colleagues across campus, P-12 school partners, alumni, candidates/WSU students, and other community constituents for their support and for helping us to prepare highly competent, collaborative, and reflective professionals.
Distinguished Teachers Named

The Distinguished Classroom Teacher Awards program honors outstanding teachers who affect the quality of education in the Wichita Public Schools. Peers, building administrators or parents nominated the recipients. A committee consisting of principals, assistant principals, teachers, support staff, the assistant superintendents of elementary, middle and high schools and a member of the United Teachers of Wichita selects the final recipients.

WSU College of Education alumni made a strong showing among the 2010 Distinguished Classroom Teacher awards recently announced by the Wichita public schools:

**Megan Vicin**, kindergarten teacher at Kensler Elementary – New Teacher, Elementary category

**Theresa Blunt**, 7th grade math teacher at Truesdell Middle School – New Teacher, Secondary category

**Cindy Siemens**, Language Arts teacher at Robinson Middle School – Middle School category

**Kim Morrissey**, P.E. teacher at Dodge Literacy Magnet – Support teacher category

Runners up:

**Jamie Cole**, 6th grade math teacher at Truesdell Middle

**Deborah Mumford**, 4th grade teacher at Adams Elementary

**Stephanie Uffendell**, math teacher at Mead Middle School

Megan Vicin and Theresa Blunt will represent USD 259 for the Kansas Horizon Award which recognizes outstanding first-year teachers. Cindy Siemens and Kim Morrissey will represent the district for the Kansas Teacher of the Year Award.

Congratulations to all of these great teachers!

2010 College of Education graduates, their families and friends are cordially invited to attend

Commencement Reception
Saturday, May 15
Corbin Education Center
Immediately following commencement
Barry Downing will be commencement speaker

Barry L. Downing, a WSU alum and local businessman (who oversees groups of businesses employing over 2,200 employees generating annual sales of over $1 billion annually), will be the featured speaker at the commencement. Mr. Downing is also responsible for founding two early learning centers which provide early education to over 400 children (mostly from poverty) and is an articulate advocate for early education for young, poor and minority children at state and national arenas.

The life and times of Harriet Tubman came alive as Dr. Gwen Mukes makes a living history presentation during the Brown Bag Diversity Discussion at Rhatigan Student Center in March.

The Sport Management Student Association sponsored a trip to Oklahoma City March 12. More than 30 students took a tour of the Ford Center, met with front office personnel from the NBA Thunder franchise, and attended that night’s game between the Thunder and the Nets.

The 15th annual Graduate Showcase provides an opportunity for faculty, students, area school personnel, and the community to observe the accomplishments of those graduate students in all five of the College of Education departments. University President Donald Beggs will open the showcase at 8:30 a.m. and Associate Provost for Research David McDonald will make closing remarks shortly before noon. All College of Education students, faculty and staff are invited to attend to show support for our students and programs. Refreshments will be served.
Publications and Presentations

♦ Dr. Michael Rogers wrote about adult playgrounds in the Netherlands, active design in New York City, Dutch and American fall prevention programs, and Japanese day care in his editorial column in the latest issue of Active Aging Today (Vol. 1, No. 4, 2010) for which he serves as editor-in-chief. He was also the subject of the journal’s face-to-face interview column in which he talked about his teaching and research on physical activity and aging.

♦ Dr. Michael Rogers and his colleague, Dr. Nobuo Takeshima of Nagoya City University in Japan, were awarded $10,000 for a study to determine the effect of concurrent aerobic and resistance circuit exercise training using the Thera-Band Exercise Station in older adults. The 12-week exercise program will be conducted at two senior centers in Nagoya, starting in April 2010. Dr. Rogers will visit Nagoya in June to assist with post-intervention data collection and analysis.