1994 - 2009

15 years of commitment to gifted education
Center for Gifted Studies
and Talent Development

*in association with*
*Ball State University Teachers College*

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Mission Statement

The Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development was created to identify, promote, and develop giftedness; to conduct research to improve programs for and create a better understanding of the needs of gifted and talented individuals; to provide professional development programs for those who work with gifted and talented individuals; and to make information about all aspects of the gifted and talented more accessible.

Founded in 1994 as part of the Ball State University’s Teachers College and with funding from the Indiana Department of Education, The Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development has amassed a mountain of accomplishments since its inception. From outreach work with schools across Indiana to offering classes at Ball State University, the Center has consistently contributed to excellence in gifted and talented education. It has been the recipient of millions of dollars of federal and state grant money; has hosted or participated in a number of regional, state and national conferences; and has created several long running programs. The Center celebrated 15 years of service in 2008-09.
Director’s Letter . . .

When I arrived at Ball State in 1994, the Center had just been created through the efforts of Tracy Cross. It existed as a tote-bag, a toll-free number and a small group of individuals committed to gifted education in Indiana. The time and efforts of this small group immediately accomplished two huge tasks: bringing all the courses in gifted education into one organized framework and holding the first Share-IN Conference on gifted education. Over the next two years, as the Center’s influence and opportunities to advocate for gifted children grew, Dean Roy Weaver acknowledged its potential to become a world-class center for gifted education and even relinquished his conference room so that there was a physical space in which to house the Center. The Center immediately instituted the Saturday Scholars Program for elementary students, followed by the Summer Scholars programs. With a dedicated space in which to work and a team of individuals with backgrounds in gifted education, we were now ready to write the first of several Javits grants. Receiving funding for our first Javits grant, Project GATE, a partnership with the Indianapolis Public Schools, was the first of many significant contributions of the Center. This was followed by the Esther Katz Rosen grant from the American Psychological Foundation, a second and third Javits grant, Projects CLUE and CLUE-Plus, several grants from the Indiana Department of Education Division of Exceptional Learners, including Shared Information Services, a state-funded resource library for gifted education, and a Discovery group grant to establish an undergraduate concentration in gifted education. Clearly grantsmanship has played a significant role in the Center’s history.

The Center’s contributions over the last several years have been many and varied, but the greatest strength of the Center is the level of commitment from those who are involved in its activities. The Center has been enriched by the quality of those individuals who have played a part in its development over the past fifteen years. Whether graduate students, staff members, or Center associates, all have helped the Center evolve into its current level of respect and recognition as one of the nation’s top Centers for gifted education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheryll M. Adams

* On the bottom of each page runs a timeline, constructed to illustrate the Center’s accomplishments throughout the past 15 years.

January 1994 - January 2009

15 years of commitment to gifted education!
Steering Committee

Cheryll M. Adams, Ph.D. (University of Virginia)

- Director of the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development
- Co-Editor Emerita, Research Briefs (NA GC)
- Contributing Editor, The Roeper Review
- Past President, Treasurer, Indiana Association for the Gifted
- Vice-President, Secretary, The Association for the Gifted
- Past Board Member, National Association for Gifted Children

Accomplishments
- Published articles in refereed journals, chapters in books, and one book
- Presented at national, international conferences, state, regional conferences
- Awarded over $10 million in grants

Tracy L. Cross, Ph.D. (University of Tennessee)

- Associate Dean, Teachers College
- Executive Director, Institute for Research on the Psychology of Gifted Students
- George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Gifted Studies
- Executive Director of the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities
- Editor of The Journal for the Education of the Gifted
- Professor of Educational Psychology
- President of The Association for the Gifted (TAG). Council for Exceptional Children, 2000–2002

Accomplishments
- Published articles in refereed journals and three books in their second editions
- Presented papers at national, international, state, and regional conferences
- Has been awarded over $8 million in grants

1994

January
The center is founded and awarded a grant from the Indiana Department of Education

April
The first Share-IN Conference takes place.
Steering Committee

Jerrell C. Cassady, Ph.D. (Purdue University)

- Associate Professor of Psychology, Educational Psychology
- Research Fellow, Indiana Academy for Mathematics, Science, and Humanities
- Director, Anxiety Research Consortium

Accomplishments:
- Published articles in refereed journals and book chapters
- Presented research papers at national, international, regional, and state conferences

Rebecca L. Pierce, Ph.D. (University of Texas at Arlington)

- Associate Professor of Mathematics, Ball State University
- Director, Ball State Institute for the Gifted in Mathematics: BIG M (summer residential mathematics program for fifth- and sixth-grade students)

Accomplishments:
- Published articles in refereed journals, book chapters, and one book
- Presented at national, international, state, regional conferences
- Awarded over $2.5 million in grants

“It is most difficult to condense 15 years into a few significant contributions because the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development has been very active in promoting and providing gifted education at many levels. When forced to choose, I would say the most significant contributions of the Center are the selection of Cheryll Adams to direct the Center, the award and implementation of three Javits grants, and the progress in establishing a gifted services plan at Burris Laboratory School.”

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1995

A Steering Committee is formed and endorsement courses are evaluated

1996

JANUARY

Center Enrichment Opportunities Program
Steering Committee

**Kristie L. Speirs Neumeister, Ph.D. (University of Georgia)**

- Assistant Professor of Psychology (Educational Psychology), Ball State University

**Accomplishments**
- Published articles in refereed journals
- Presented at national, international, state, and regional conferences

“I think the Center’s most significant contribution has been the work with the Javits Grants. The outcomes of the Javits grants have significantly influenced gifted education in both rural and urban areas in Indiana. Without the Center, this impact on the lives of so many gifted children would not have been possible.”

**David Williams, Ed.D. (University of Tennessee)**

- Director of Academic Life, Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities
- Project Director of 3 Grants: Project Aspire (Javits and API) and Bridging the American Experiment (Teaching American History)

**Accomplishments:**
- Presented at national and state conferences
- Awarded $3 million dollars in grants
Steering Committee Awards

Cheryll M. Adams, Ph.D.

\( = \) Colby Award, Sigma Kappa National Sorority for Leadership in Education, 2006
\( = \) Outstanding Service Award, Indiana Association for the Gifted, 2005
\( = \) Outstanding Administrative Service, Ball State University, 2004
\( = \) Early Leader Award for significant contributions in the leadership and service to the field of gifted education, National Association for Gifted Children, 2002
\( = \) Recipient, John C. Gowan Outstanding Graduate Student Award, National Association for Gifted Children, 1994

Tracy L. Cross, Ph.D.

\( = \) Researcher of the Year Award for Ball State University, Office of Academic Research and Sponsored Programs, 2004
\( = \) Outstanding Research Award in Teachers College, Alumni Association, Ball State University, 2004
\( = \) Indiana Association for the Gifted, Outstanding Leader Award, 2003
\( = \) President of The Association for the Gifted (TAG), Council for Exceptional Children, 2000–2002
\( = \) Award for Outstanding Administrative Service Ball State University, 1999
\( = \) Early Scholar Award for significant contributions in conducting and reporting research regarding the education of gifted individuals, National Association for Gifted Children, 1997
\( = \) Early Leader Award. For significant contributions in the leadership and service to the field of gifted education. National Association for Gifted Children, 1996

Jerrell C. Cassady, Ph.D.

\( = \) Outstanding Junior Faculty member, Ball State University, 2004
\( = \) Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, Purdue University, School of Education, 1999

Rebecca L. Pierce, PhD.

\( = \) Outstanding Faculty Service Award, 2006
\( = \) Leadership Award, Indiana Association for the Gifted, 2002

Kristie L. Speirs Neumeister, Ph.D.

\( = \) Recipient, John C. Gowan Doctoral Student Award, National Association for Gifted Children, 2002

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1997

**January/March**
Saturday Scholars Program

**April**
Share-IN Conference

**July**
First Summer Scholars Program
Center Staff

Becky Zimmerman, M.A.

Becky Zimmerman serves as the Project CLUE-Plus manager. She has been working with the Center for Gifted Studies for 6 years.

Kim Petty

Kim Petty serves as the Coordinator for Shared Information Services, a lending library of quality educational resources that supports the learning of high-ability students and the professional development of educators throughout the state of Indiana. Her duties include the purchasing of such resources; the promoting and dispersing of these materials via mailings, and on and off-site visits; overseeing the center’s daily operations; and innumerable other administrative tasks.

Suzy Smith

Suzy serves as the assistant librarian at Shared Information Services. Her duties include mailing and distribution of educational materials to patrons across the state of Indiana, maintaining business records, and other administrative tasks of the library.

Amanda O. Latz, M.A.

Amanda Latz serves as the Center’s current doctoral assistant. She is pursuing a doctoral degree in Adult, Higher, and Community Education. Her duties at the Center include research, database management, and other administrative tasks.

Peyton L. Groff

Peyton Groff serves as the Center’s current graduate assistant. He is pursuing a graduate degree in Clinical Psychology. His duties at the Center include scholarship management, assessment, and other administrative tasks.

1998

JANUARY
Gifted Girls Conference

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
Saturday Scholars Program
Programs

Summer Scholars Program
The Summer Scholars Program offers a week-long program on diverse topics for students in grades one through eight. Topics include math, science, chemistry, surrealism, history, culture and literature. Admission to the program is based on a student’s interest in a particular field of study or topic covered by a course and her/his ability to work in an atmosphere that encourages higher order thinking and advanced ability in a subject area.

Share-Indiana Conference on Parenting and Teaching Gifted Children
Every year, the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development, the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities, and the Indiana Association for the Gifted sponsor this conference for parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators, and others to help them learn more about gifted children in Indiana. This one-day conference offers breakout sessions on various topics as well as a keynote speaker.

Services

Shared Information Services
SIS is an educational resource center funded and operated by the Indiana Department of Education. The office/library, housed in the Center, is the only one in Indiana. The SIS center is open to all Indiana residents wishing to peruse and/or check out materials and may be accessed by visitation, phone, mail or e-mail. Residents of Indiana are welcome to visit or contact the SIS center to request information about specific materials or topics. Individuals may check out materials for a period of one month. The SIS online catalog can be accessed at www.bsu.edu/sis.

Partnerships

The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities
The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities is a two-year residential public high school for gifted and talented students located on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Three hundred juniors and seniors from across the state attend the Academy every year and work toward the Indiana Academic Honors Diploma. The curriculum has extensive offerings in science, mathematics, and humanities with a wide variety of options in higher-level and advanced placement courses. Education, housing, and meals are provided to students at no cost to their parents. Students have access to the Ball State University campus, library, computer labs, wellness facilities and numerous other programs. The Academy student body reflects the cultural, economic, ethnic, and racial diversity of the state of Indiana.

Burris Laboratory School
Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, Burris admitted additional high ability students at each grade level. Enrolling these new students with exceptional abilities allows Ball State, through the laboratory school, to conduct more research into best practices in this extremely challenging area of education, and to enhance opportunities for pre-service teachers to broaden their understanding of how to meet the needs of high ability students. To serve these students Burris builds on the programs and services provided by Ball State University including; the Shared Information Services repository of books and tapes; the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities; the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development; and BSU programs including the licensure program in educating high ability students, a cognate in gifted education for doctoral students and a concentration area in gifted education for elementary education majors.
Courses

The Educational Psychology Department, in coordination with the Center, offers several courses on gifted education that are applicable toward licensure in the field. The department offers a master's degree with an emphasis on gifted education, a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, and a cognate in gifted studies in the doctoral program.

**EDPSY 520 Introduction to the Gifted Student**
An overview of the history and philosophy of gifted education.

**EDPSY 611 Development of Creative Thinking**
Theories and strategies for fostering creativity.

**EDPSY 621 Identification and Evaluation of Gifted and Talented Students**
Explores past and present practices in identifying gifted students.

**EDPSY 623 Investigating the Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students**
Explores theories that explain social and emotional experiences of gifted children and adolescents, with emphasis on real life experiences of gifted children.

**EDPSY 625 Models and Practicum in Gifted Education**
Models and strategies for teaching gifted students as well as teaching and laboratory experience with gifted and talented students under supervision of professional and college supervisors.

**EDEL 657 Development, Implementation, & Evaluation of Programs for Gifted/Talented**
Competencies necessary for the elementary teachers to develop and implement programs for gifted and talented students. Emphasizes processes, techniques, materials, resources, and models appropriate for enhancing educational experiences for gifted and talented elementary students.

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**AUGUST**
Center receives Javits grant for Project Gate

**SEPTEMBER**
Share-IN Conference
**Publications in Gifted Education**

*Selected Journal Articles (through Fall 2008)*


Publications

Selected Journal Articles (continued)


Cross, T. L., Cook, R. S., & Dixon, D. N. (1996). Psychological autopsies of three academically talented adolescents who...
Publications


Hébert, T. P., & Speirs Neumeister, K. L. (2000). University mentors in the elementary classroom: Supporting the intellectual,
Publications

Selected Journal Articles (continued)


**AUGUST**
Center receives Javits grant for Project CLUE

**SEPTEMBER**
Share-IN Conference
Selected Journal Articles (continued)


Publications

**Selected Books, Monographs, and Book Chapters**


Publications

Selected Books, Monographs, and Book Chapters (Continued)

Elsevier Science.


Grants


Adams, C. M. (2003). Identification of Students in Indiana. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $2,700.00

Adams, C. M. (2003). Identification of Students in Indiana. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $4,000.00

Adams, C. M. (2004). Action Research. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $34,988.00

Adams, C. M. (2004). Program Standards for Gifted Education. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $4,700.00

Adams, C. M. (2004). Scholarships for the License in Gifted Education. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $32,800.00


Adams, C. M., & Myers, R. (2000). Shared Information Services. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $120,000.00

Adams, C. M., & Myers, R. (2001). Shared Information Services. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $120,000.00


Cross, T. L. (2004). Enhanced Provost Initiative Grant for the development of a national center for gifted studies. Ball State University. Award: $13,000.00


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**JULY**
Summer Scholars Program

**OCTOBER**
Share-IN Conference

**FEBRUARY**
IAG/IDOE Conference

**2005**
Grants

Cross, T. L. (1996) Partnership to Meet the Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $50,000.00

Cross, T.L., Dixon, D. N., & Cook, R.S. (1995). Grant to fund the study entitled Psychosocial Histories of Three Gifted Adolescent Suicides. Ball State University. Award: $1,500.00

Cross, T., Gridley, B., & Adams (1997). Partnership to Meet the Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs of Gifted Children. Indiana Department of Education. Award: $60,000.00


Project

Project Project GATE was a five-year project with the Indianapolis Public Schools that provided professional development to all teachers in grades kindergarten through twelfth to differentiate curriculum in mathematics and science. The project was funded by a Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Program grant.

During the first year, the building level principal and all faculty in each of the five elementary schools participated in intensive professional development sessions that targeted strategies for differentiating instruction in the regular classroom. In the second year, five middle schools were added. In the third year, five high schools were added.
Project Clue, Clustering Learners Unlocks Equity, is a partnership between the Center and the Indianapolis Public Schools. It implements all seven areas of the Ford-Harris Model to provide comprehensive services to gifted and talented students in grades three through five. The project is funded by a 2002 Priority One Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Program grant.
Project CLUE-Plus

Project CLUE-Plus is an experimental design with random assignment of schools to three conditions, scaled up from CLUE, our previous Javits grant with a large urban school, to include 45 other schools in Indiana that are either urban, small urban, rural, or private, 135 teachers, and approximately 10,000 students over five years. These schools have high incidences of students who are economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient, and/or who may not be identified and served by traditional assessment methods.

Project outcomes will incorporate new information that improves the capability of these schools, as well as other schools, to plan, conduct, and improve programs to identify and serve underrepresented gifted and talented students. We will place the project on the World Wide Web for accessibility to other school districts across the nation, as well as present outcomes of the project at local, state, national and international conferences that focus on gifted education, content and general education. Once in place, Project CLUE-Plus will be sustainable by the schools after Year Five of the grant. Because the CLUE-Plus schools will be characteristically typical of small and medium urban, rural and private schools that have a high percentage of minority, ESL, and/or low SES students, the results of the project will be generalizable to other systems with similar profiles.
Hildegard Gordan taught the first gifted education class at Ball State in 1958. It was called “The First Learner.” The Center recently presented her with the “Pioneer Award” for her contributions in gifted education.