TEACHERS COLLEGE YEAR-IN-REVIEW

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN JACOBSON

One of the most important responsibilities of our faculty is to participate in scholarly and research endeavors. Research engagement not only enlightens and advances the field of education, it enhances the scholarship of teaching as well. The commitment and devotion of Teachers College faculty to this essential responsibility is truly noteworthy.

I am continually impressed with both the quality and quantity of research being conducted by faculty individually and collaboratively with their colleagues and students. Though the space in this report allows us to spotlight only a few examples, this past year has been extraordinarily productive in the number of articles, book chapters, and books published, as well as the number of national and international conference presentations (see the sidebar).

In addition to publications and presentations, our faculty members are moving the profession forward by serving as journal and book editors, sitting on journal review boards, and serving in journal editorial boards, and 23 served in professional leadership positions—this is truly a remarkable record of dedicated service to the profession.

Another area that helped facilitate our scholarly activity is the complete internal renovation of our 1968 10-floor Teachers College Building. With a $16.9 million allocation from the Indiana General Assembly, representatives from across the college came together to redesign our workspace to foster both quality teaching and learning as well as support collaborative research activity. On March 17, a special ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the transformation of our building. The renovation brought cutting-edge technology enhancements to all classrooms and faculty offices, state-of-the-art clinics and laboratories enriched with amenities, and a new one-stop student services center.

Thank you for taking the time to read our featured article below, review our 2013-14 accolades, and celebrate our achievements with us.

Sincerely,
John E. Jacobson, Dean

Our Research Serves Communities

Education researchers at Ball State are making a difference in our community by using the lessons learned in their research to improve the lives of area residents. Through use of data and interviews with hundreds of research participants, troubled youth have improved their emotional well-being as well as their grades, high school students are more rested before going to class, and couples have improved their relationships.

Janay Sander, associate professor of educational psychology, partnered with the Youth Opportunity Center to improve the lives of troubled youth. The center works in conjunction with the Muncie Community Schools to be a safe place for such children, offering a variety of educational programs to enrich their lives.

Sander’s research addresses the challenges of adolescents, schools, and the systems that serve these students with emotional, behavioral, and academic needs, including delinquency or juvenile justice involvement. She’s collected data to improve the agency’s service delivery.

“Our goal is to develop innovative practices by incorporating research in order to create programs that may meet needs of the youth,” says Sander.

Mike Harvey, professor of special education, and his colleague, Lori Boyland, assistant professor of educational leadership, studied how many adolescents are chronically sleep deprived, affecting their performance at school and their emotional and physical health. Harvey and Boyland found that early school start times only exacerbate the problem, but they knew changing the start times could be a difficult process.

They spent three years working with a local school district, developing recommendations regarding an initiative that delayed secondary school start times to allow teenagers to get more sleep.

“Adolescence is a difficult enough time without going through it without enough rest,” says Boyland.

By surveying parents and teachers, they could make the case to delay start times for classes. The results suggest a transition period for the school community to adapt and see the benefits of the change.

Kristin Perrone-McGovern, a professor of counseling psychology and guidance services, is also using her research to make a positive impact. Leading a study on conflict resolution, empathy, and communication, her team of faculty and students used an innovative technology, an iWorx system, to collect data on heart rate and skin conductance levels.

Perrone-McGovern’s team presented its findings at the American Psychological Association Annual Convention last year.

The team found couples were more likely to resolve conflicts and have healthier relationships when calm, less physiologically aroused, and more empathetic. These are only a few examples of scholarship and research within the Teachers College. Our dedicated faculty are devoted to sharing their research and using it to better the lives of people in the community and across Indiana.