

★ ★ **Director's Message ~ Dr. Tammy Pawloski** ★ ★

Happy 2010! As you read about recent activities and study the calendar of future events, I hope you will agree that the Center of Excellence provides a wide range of teacher development activities that are uniquely suited to those who serve schools in the Pee Dee Region. The New Year is off to a great start with twelve FMU Faculty and P-12 Teacher grants awarded this academic year.

A new year often brings **professional opportunities and challenges**, and I am always grateful to identify **resources for ideas and information** about successful programs and important research. Helpful and convenient, the **ASCD SmartBrief** is free and you can subscribe to it by clicking on/typing in this link: <http://www.smartbrief.com/ascd/>. The **SmartBrief** arrives every day via email and provides a quick and simple way to stay abreast of news in K-12 education. I hope you, too, will find it to be a helpful resource.

A recent item of interest included in the SmartBrief was the announcement of and access to a **Whole Child Podcast** in which author Eric Jensen shares strategies for meeting students where they are now, while preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead. The accompanying Jensen book and PowerPoint, **Teaching with Poverty in Mind: What Being Poor Does to Kids' Brains and What Schools Can Do About It** is available for check-out from the Center of Excellence Resource Library.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and participation and wish each of you the *best* in 2010. *Have a Great Year!*

★ **COE Awards Twelve Grants** ★

The **Center of Excellence** awarded over \$23,000 in Fall 2009 grants to **P-12 Educators and Francis Marion University faculty members**. The Center of Excellence is honored to announce the following **Fall 2009 Grant recipients**:

P-12 Public Schools

★ **Clarendon District 1**

Mr. Harold Ehnhaus, "Utilizing Technology for Science Inquiry and Standards," Scott's Branch High School

★ **Clarendon District 2**

Mrs. Betty Harrington, "Going on a Sensory Diet," Manning Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Kristi Motley, "Making Math Count," Manning Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Shanna Morgan, "READ (Recess, Exercise & Academics Daily)," Manning Elementary School

★ **Clarendon District 3**

Mrs. Rebecca H. Poston, "World Festival of Music and Arts," Walker- Gamble Elementary School

★ **Dillon District 2**

Mrs. Victoria Gray & Mrs. Kathy Cooper, "Preschool Authors: A Step Ahead," South Elementary School

★ **Florence District 1**

Mrs. April Coe & Mrs. Ginger Baggette, "Data Makes the Difference in Math," Delmae Heights Elementary

Mrs. Debra Purvis, "What a Wonderful World," Timrod Elementary School

Francis Marion University Faculty

★ Dr. Cindi Nixon, "WATCH: Watching Assessments in Transition Change Horizons"

★ Dr. Tracy Meetze, "Instructional Accommodation Graduate Program"

★ Dr. Janis McWayne, "Francis Marion University School of Education"

★ Dr. Janis McWayne, Dr. Tracy Meetze, Dr. Shirley Bausmith, & Dr. Daljit Kaur, "FMU School of Education"



COE Resource Library Article Spotlight

Child Poverty is Highest in Rural Counties in U.S.

<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2008/childpoverty.aspx>

While **poverty** is thought to be a problem confined to **urban areas**, William O'Hare and Mark Mather showcase data released by the Census Bureau in 2008 indicating **most of the counties with high child poverty rates are located in rural, remote, and sparsely populated regions of America**. The child poverty rate for the most remote *rural counties in America is higher than the rate in the most urban counties*. Of the 100 counties with the highest poverty rates in America, **three-fourths (74)** of the counties are in the rural **South**. Those with high poverty rates in the **Midwest and West** are concentrated mainly in counties where there is a *large concentration of Indian reservations*. In conclusion, O'Hare and Mather disprove the myths that **all urban areas are stricken with high poverty rates and rural areas are not impoverished**. The statistics paint a picture of the **true scenarios of these regions of the country**.

For more interesting articles and other resources, including the previously mentioned work "Teaching with Poverty in Mind: What Being Poor Does to Kids' Brains and What Schools Can Do About It" by Eric Jensen, visit the **Francis Marion University Center of Excellence's Online Resource Library at the following link: <http://www.fmucenterofexcellence.org/fmu/resources.asp>**

Abstract written by: Krista Roscoe, FMU Graduate Student



2010 Student Professional Learning and Research Conference

"Important Work: Teaching Children of Poverty"

Day: April 15, 2010

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Lowrimore Auditorium, FMU

For
Students
Only!

The **Student Professional Learning and Research Conference** is being held to **increase awareness of the issues of poverty as they relate to student learning and achievement**. The keynote address, break-out, poster, and roundtable sessions will focus on **research-based practices as they relate to the needs and abilities of children of poverty in the following areas:**

Six Standards for Teaching Children of Poverty

- The Culture of Poverty
- Family and Community Partnerships
- Curriculum Design, Instructional Strategies & Assessment
- Language and Literacy
- The Classroom Community
- Teachers of Children of Poverty as Learners, Leaders, and Advocates

This year's Keynote Address: "**Hone Your Teaching Practice Using Photos and Narrative**" will be presented by Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. Janis McWayne
- Lauren Tomlinson
- Calandra Brisbane
- Kellie Becote
- Zac Calcutt
- Ross Hill
- John Propst

FMU Education students should submit proposals to COE@fmarion.edu no later than **March 1, 2010**. Notification of acceptance will be made via e-mail by March 11, 2010.

For additional information, contact the COE office at (843) 669-3391 ext 28 or coe@fmarion.edu



Spring 2010 Calendar



February

24 Spring Teacher Cadet Day 8:00 am – 6:00 pm EDH

March

09 Faculty Seminar 2:30-3:30 pm CEMC

15-19 SPRING BREAK

24 NNPS End of Year Celebration 8:30 – 10:30 am EDH

April

04 Happy Easter!

15 Student Conference Day 10:30 am – 6:00 pm CEMC

CONGRATULATIONS!

Florence District Three Schools Join NNPS!



NNPS **New Member Team Training** was held on November 9, 2009. Six **Florence District Three schools** participated in the **New Member Team Training** where their **Action Team for Partnerships (ATPs)** worked together to write a **One-Year Action Plan** linked to their school improvement goals.

The six **Florence District Three schools** that participated in the **New Member Team Training** were:

- Lake City High School
- Olanta Elementary School
- J. Paul Truluck Middle School
- Ronald E. McNair Middle School
- Main Street Elementary
- Scranton Elementary School



Enter Now! Cash Prizes!



COE Essay Contest

DON'T FORGET that the deadline for **COE Essay Contest** entries is **March 22, 2010**. The topic is "**Important Work: Teaching Children of Poverty**". The contest is open to all FMU students, teacher cadets & P-12 Teachers in COE partner districts. First prize for each group is **\$200** and second prize for each group is **\$150**. For official contest details go to the COE Website at <http://www.fmucenterofexcellence.org>.