

★★ **Director's Message** ★★

Happy New Year! As you make your staff development plans for Spring 2008 please take a few moments to note the full calendar of activities offered for those who work with children of poverty including teachers and administrators in local school districts as well as teacher candidates at FMU and other colleges and universities.

Two early major events are scheduled for the Spring semester. Dr. Vera Blake will be featured at the January 24th **Spring Colloquium** sessions, and the Saturday **"How 2 Workshop"** will again include numerous interest sessions and a mini-keynote presentation. Last semester each of these events attracted over 300 registrants! Other planned events include a **FMU Faculty Seminar**, **FMU Student Spring Semester Kick-off**, the continuation of the **Consortium of Curriculum Leaders Book Study**, **Curriculum Projects** and **NNPS** activities.

The number and variety of opportunities planned by the Center of Excellence is unmatched in our region, and the unique focus on children of poverty is sure to make these events particularly helpful for those who work with children who come from homes with limited resources. Please plan to take advantage of these staff development opportunities. Call or e-mail your registration today!

Register Now!

Reservations accepted through the Center of Excellence at 843-669-3391, Ext. 28 or by email at coe@fmarion.edu.

January 24, 2008
COE SPRING 08 Colloquium
FMU Chapman Auditorium
4:00-5:30 p.m.



Dr. Vera Blake

Registration is free to all educators but seating is limited.

"Practical Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gap"

The 2008 Spring Colloquium featuring Dr. Vera Blake will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapman Auditorium at Francis Marion University. This session will include a brief lecture followed by an interactive discussion with attendees. The topic is **"Practical Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gap."** Dr. Blake's presentation will focus on research-based approaches designed to support and enhance the skills of educators. She believes that "Success is the Only Option" as we strive to "Leave No Child Behind." Dr. Vera Blake has previously worked as a principal, teacher, and instructional coach. Currently, Dr. Blake is working as a school improvement coach in several school districts in Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, and Virginia. In addition, she was the lead school improvement coach for all of the U.S. Virgin Island Public Schools (K-12). Dr. Blake serves as a professional development consultant to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and as a consultant and coach to schools and districts nationwide to help improve student achievement.

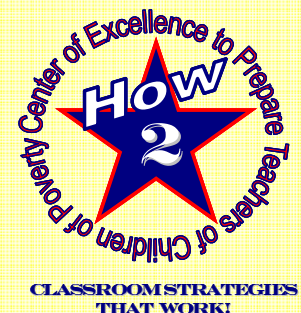
* **Professional Development Recertification hours will be awarded to all participants!**

Register Now!

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February 9, 2008
COE Spring 08 Workshop
FMU Chapman Auditorium
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Registration is free to all Partner District educators and college students with IDs. There will be a \$10.00 fee for all others, payable on site.



The Francis Marion University Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty announces the Spring Saturday Workshop which will be held on **February 9, 2008** in **Chapman Auditorium** in **McNair Science Facility (MSF)** from 8:00 – 12:30 pm on the campus of Francis Marion University, Florence, South Carolina.

The **theme** of the Spring 2008 Workshop is **"How 2: Classroom Strategies that Work!"** Sessions will focus on research-based classroom strategies and best practices in the following areas as they relate to the **needs and abilities of children of poverty.**

- *Metacognition: Strategies that Promote Thinking Skills*
- *Classroom Management and Student Motivation*
- *Assessment and Evaluation*
- *Culture of Poverty*
- *Language Development and Literacy*
- *Curriculum Development and Implementation*
- *Differentiated Instruction*
- *School, Family, and Community Partnerships*

* **Professional Development Recertification hours will be awarded to all participants!**



COE Awards \$21,000 in Grants!



Ten teachers from six schools in five COE partnering districts and nine FMU faculty members were awarded more than \$21,000 collectively for research and professional development projects that address issues for students in grades preschool through 12. Public school teachers were awarded \$11,909.87, while FMU faculty members received \$9,223.88 to fund their projects. **Look for new opportunities to win grant awards! Applications will be accepted beginning January 11 and ending February 26.**

Congratulations Grant Award Winners!

Public School Grants

- ★ Clarendon School District Two – **Tscharner Lord & Wendy Ray** – Manning Primary School – *“Enriching the Brains of Poverty”*
- ★ Darlington County School District – **Donna Barrett & Sarah Andrews** – Carolina Elementary School – *“After School Tutoring Program”*
- ★ Florence School District One – **Stacy Stafford** – McLaurin Elementary School- *“Experience for a Lifetime” – 91 students, 1st grade, have opportunity to visit Edventure Museum, Columbia, SC*
- ★ Florence School District One – **Carol Hill** – South Florence High School – *“Preparing Students of Poverty for Careers in Science-Related Fields”*
- ★ Florence School District Three – **Sherri Yarborough** – Main Street Elementary, Lake City – *“BET: Building Experiences Together”*
- ★ Marion School District Seven – **Nancy Etman, Waymon Edmonds and Mary Stacey** – Britton's Neck Elementary School – *“Creating an E-News Magazine”*

FMU Faculty Grants

- ★ Nursing – **Julia Hucks and Barbara Westphal** – *“Obesity Awareness Effectiveness of Weight Management Programs in Middle Schools”*
- ★ Education – **Kathryn G. Haselden** – *“Education Full Circle: Making the Connection Between Literacy Instruction at School & Home”*
- ★ Education – **Daljit Kaur and Marla Sanders** – *“Educating Children of Poverty: The Role of the School Administrator”*
- ★ Education – **Shirley Bausmith, Daljit Kaur, Janis McWayne & Tracy Meetze** – *“Qualitative research study to investigate how FMU graduate students have applied qualitative research skills”*

February 1 – Deadline – Online Journal – Teaching Children of Poverty (TCOP)

Submissions may be written from an academic or practitioner perspective. TCOP welcomes manuscripts that address significant public and educational policy initiatives and other issues related to the nature and improvement of effective strategies for teaching children of poverty. General information and author submission guidelines for TCOP can be accessed at the COE website. For any questions contact Dr. Janis McWayne at 843.661.1467.

February 9: Teachers of Children of Poverty Professional Organization Meeting

The P-12 Teachers of Children of Poverty Organization is in need of teachers who are interested in leadership roles. Three committees are in development: Executive, Membership/Recruitment, and Project. Officers will be elected, and the by-laws will be reviewed for final approval. Send nominations for officers with contact information. If you are interested in competing for an office please send a short bio to jmcwayne@fmarion.edu.

March 31 – Deadline – Student Essay Contest

The COE is conducting its second essay contest this spring! Guidelines and requirements have been updated. To find out more information contact Dr. Janis McWayne via e-mail at jmcwayne@fmarion.edu or visit the COE website.

CALENDAR – SPRING 2008

January 2008

14	Science Curriculum Project Wrap-up	3:30 – 5:00	PDEC
16	COE Faculty Seminar	2:00 – 3:00	Ed. Conf. Rm
17	Student Kick-Off	3:45 – 5:00	GEMC 114
22	Consortium of Curriculum Leaders Book Study	8:30 – 10:00	PDEC
24	Teacher Candidate Pre-Colloquium	9:30 – 11:00	CEMC 225
24	Faculty Lunch w/Dr. Vera Blake	11:15 – 1:00	The Cottage
24	Partner District Pre-Colloquium		
	Conversations w/ Dr. Vera Blake	2:00 – 3:30	PDEC
24	Spring Colloquium w/ Dr. Vera Blake	4:00 – 5:30	Chapman
30	Grants Award Luncheon	11:30 – 1:30	Palmetto Rm.

February 2008

01	Deadline for submission of papers for Online Journal		
09	How 2: Spring Workshop	8:00 – 12:30	Chapman
09	Professional Organization Meeting	12:30- 1:30	Chapman
14	Superintendent Work Session	1:00 – 3:30	PDEC
19	Consortium of Curriculum Leaders Book Study	8:30 – 10:00	PDEC

March 2008

05	COE Faculty Seminar	2:00 – 3:00	GEMC 225
25	Advisory Meeting	8:30 – 10:00	PDEC
31	Deadline for Essay Contest		

April 2008

02	Spring COE Newsletter release		
29	NNPS End-of-Year Luncheon Celebration	12:00 – 3:30	Palmetto Rm
30	Spring Math Curriculum Project Wrap-up	3:30 – 5:00	PDEC

May 2008

06	Leadership Recognition Breakfast	8:30 – 10:00	Palmetto Rm
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June 2008

10	COE Summer Institute	8:00 – 3:30	Poyner
11	COE Summer Institute	8:00 – 3:30	Poyner
16-20	Math Bridge Training	8:30 – 4:00	PDEC

Read All About It!

“In response to a request from Dr. Tammy Pawloski, Director of the Center of Excellence, Dr. Lorin Anderson has written a policy paper entitled **“Solutions in Search of Problems: Breaking the Cycle of Failed Educational Reform.”** In his paper, Dr. Anderson lays out a four-step procedure that will likely lead to successful educational reform.

* To read this Policy Paper by Dr. Lorin Anderson, go to the COE website, click on “Resources” then click on “Position Paper”. For more great books and articles go to the “Resources” section of the website. All of the books on the website can be checked out of the COE Resource Library.