

We can neither excuse students nor scold them for not knowing; as educators we must teach them and provide support, insistence, and expectations. – Ruby Payne, "A Framework for Understanding Poverty"

Message from Dr. Tammy Pawloski, COE Director

Happy New Year! The FMU Center of Excellence continues to grow, and with this growth has come local and national attention for our projects that address the needs of teachers that work with children and families in poverty. More teachers are involved in COE-sponsored activities than ever before, and we anticipate that we will be able to offer expanded activities in the coming years.

Please check out the calendar below for COE activities, and save the afternoon of February 22nd for the Spring Colloquium that will feature Dr. Doug Willms, Canada Research Chair in Human Development at the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Willms will deliver a short address that will be followed by your questions and interactive discussion.

Watch for the final newsletter of this academic year in late April, or visit our website for announcements of activities and application instructions for projects planned for the 2007-2008 academic year. We anticipate record numbers of interested teacher participants—be sure to submit your application.

Your input is important to the growth of the COE. Please share your needs, so that we can offer activities that will be beneficial for you. You may do so through our website, or by contacting me directly. Have a great Spring semester!

2007 Spring Colloquium "Identifying and Educating Vulnerable Children"

Dr. Doug Willms



February 22, 2007
FMU McNair Auditorium
4:00-5:30 pm

The 2007 Spring Colloquium featuring Dr. Doug Willms, will be held Thursday, February 22 at 4:00 p.m. in McNair Auditorium. The topic is "**Identifying and Educating Vulnerable Children.**" Dr. Willms is the editor of *Vulnerable Children: Findings from Canada's National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth* which received the Canadian Policy Research Award in 2002. He has written extensively on issues regarding the education and care of vulnerable children and youth: literacy; health; monitoring systems; international assessment; program evaluation; and school effectiveness.

Biographical information and articles can be found at: <http://www.unb.ca/crisp/Willms.html>

The Spring 2007 Colloquium is free to the public. Reservations must be made by calling 843.669.3391 ext 28 or email coe@fmarion.edu.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR – SPRING 2007

January 2007				
18	COE Task Force Planning Retreat	9:00 – 3:00		PDEC
18	Clinical Faculty Work Session	3:30 – 5:30		PDEC
February 2007				
15	Advisory Committee Meeting	11:00 – 3:00		ERVIN
22	Conversation with Dr. Doug Willms	2:15 – 3:30		PDEC
22	Spring Colloquium -Dr. Doug Willms	4:00 – 5:30		MCNAIR
March 2007				
TBA	Clinical Faculty Work Session	3:00 – 5:00		TBD
8	Superintendent Work Session	1:00 – 4:00		PDEC
27	Consortium of Curriculum Leaders	2:30 – 4:30		PDEC
April 2007				
25	Action Research Final Session (Teachers & Data Collectors)	1:00 – 4:00		PDEC
May 2007				
TBA	Clinical Faculty Work Session	3:00 – 5:00		PDEC
25	NNPS Celebration	8:30 – 12:00		ERVIN
29	Math Units– Final Wrap-up Meeting	9:00 – 12:00		PDEC
29	Science Units– Final Wrap-up Mtg	1:00 – 4:00		PDEC
June 2007				
5	Revised Bloom's Taxonomy Training	8:30 – 4:00		PDEC
7	Revised Bloom's Taxonomy Training	8:30 – 4:00		PDEC
12	Revised Bloom's Taxonomy Training	8:30 – 4:00		PDEC
14	Revised Bloom's Taxonomy Training	8:30 – 4:00		PDEC
July 2007				
TBA	Clinical Faculty Work Session	3:00 – 5:00		TBD
August 2007				
23	Science Unit Training	12:00 – 5:00		PDEC

Fall 2006 Colloquium Participant Comments:

"The Best! This was an awesome experience."

"Outstanding! Keep these presentations coming."

"...very practical information on helping the children [of poverty]."



About the FMU Center of Excellence



The purpose of the **Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty** is to increase the achievement of children of poverty by improving the quality of undergraduate teacher preparation, graduate teacher preparation, and the professional development of in-service teachers. To accomplish this purpose, the Center will work toward achieving five major goals and associated activities.



GOAL 1

Design and implement pre-service teacher education programs that attract qualified applicants and enable graduates to effectively teach children of poverty.

ACTIVITIES

● **Instructional modules integrated into FMU undergraduate courses:**

1. *Understanding the Culture/Politics of Poverty*
2. *Developing a Classroom Community (Classroom Management)*
3. *Communication with Families*
4. *Language/Literacy Skills*
5. *Curriculum Design, Integration, and Articulation*
6. *Teacher Leadership and Self-Reflection*
7. *Cognitive Process, Development, Strengths, and Delays*
8. *Assessing and Utilizing Available Community Resources*
9. *Understanding/Using Tests, Assessments, and Evaluation*
10. *Effective Instructional Strategies*
11. *Motivating & Engaging Children of Poverty*
12. *Building Metacognitive Strategies & Coping Skills*
13. *Service Learning*
14. *Developing Efficacy within the Poverty Mentality*
15. *Understanding and Developing Relationships among Key Players*



GOAL 2

Provide high quality professional development programs that include collaborative research activities and the use of existing research evidence to improve curriculum, instruction, and assessment in schools serving large numbers of children of poverty.

ACTIVITIES

- **Action Research:** Teachers conduct research to identify strategies and practices that will result in an increase in student achievement.
- **Colloquium Series:** Interactive sessions with national experts presented each semester.
- **Consortium of Curriculum Leaders**
- **Superintendent Work Sessions**
- **Math, Social Studies and Science Curriculum Units:** Development of standards-based units designed by COE K-8 teacher teams that are linked with the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy. All SS units are available on the COE website.
- **Revised Bloom's Taxonomy (RBT):** Workshops are provided for Partner Districts in use of RBT.
- **Interactive Message Board:** Provides a forum for ongoing conversations in the educational community.



GOAL 3

Equip teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to work effectively with parents, health and human service providers, and other community resources to meet the social, emotional, and physical needs of children of poverty and to serve as advocates for them in the school, community, and state.

ACTIVITIES

- **Training and support for National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS):**
 - 2006-2007 Members**
 - Darlington
 - Lamar Elementary
 - Darlington Middle
 - Pate Elementary
 - Dillon Three
 - Latta Middle
 - Florence One
 - Briggs Elementary
 - Dewey Carter Elem.
 - Greenwood Elem.
 - Wallace Gregg Elem.
 - Florence Two
 - Hannah-Pamplico Elem/Middle
 - Marion One
 - Easterling Primary
 - Johnakin Middle
 - Marion Intermediate
 - Marion High
 - Marion Two
 - McCormick Elem.
 - N. Mullins Primary
 - Mullins High
 - Marion Seven
 - Britton's Neck Elem.
 - Rains Centenary Elem.
 - Creek Bridge High
 - Clarendon One
 - St. Paul Primary
- **Health Resource Manual:** Revised manual now available at www.fmu.centerofexcellence.org. Call Dr. McWayne at 843-661-1467 to reserve a free training date.



GOAL 4

Develop a program that formally guides extensive study and that leads to formal designation as a "Teacher of Children of Poverty."

ACTIVITIES

- **Expansion of COE Modules into Graduate courses:** FMU Graduate faculty elect to integrate COE instructional units into FMU courses.
- **Summer Institute and Recertification Course:** A summer institute and recertification course for teachers of children of poverty are in development.
- **Link COE activities and training for Partner District teachers with their pursuit of National Board Certification:** Future plans include alignment of COE training with NBPTS and pursuit of NBPTS certification area for teachers of "Children of Poverty."



GOAL 5

Become the premier resource in South Carolina for helping teachers learn how to provide a high quality education to all children of poverty.

ACTIVITIES

- **Annual selection of Partner District Clinical Faculty:** Master Teachers from each Partner District serve as liaisons to COE.
- **Grant proposals to expand current COE projects:** Additional funding will enable COE activities related to goals 1-4 to continue and will support and expand the scope and mission of the COE.
- **Technologically-based resource center:** Established and maintained a resource center that includes print material, video tapes, DVDs, and computer software pertaining to the education of children of poverty.
- **Professional Organization and On-Line journal:** Future plans include the establishment of a state level professional organization and accompanying on-line journal for educators interested in and committed to improving the quality of educational opportunities for children of poverty.

