

The Educator

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The Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education

The Purposeful Community

School of Education

conceptual frameworks

Subject matter expertise

Excellence in planning and practice

Commitment to all learners

Positive effect on student growth

Professionalism, advocacy, and leadership

On January 30, 2009, Drs. Donald and Brenda Leake hosted a workshop for educators, principals, superintendents, administrators in New Jersey. The workshop was part of an on-going grant funded by the New Jersey Dept. of Education to help schools become higher performing schools. The presenters for this conference were the CEO at Thurgood Marshall Academy, Mr. Joshua Kern; two key administrators in charge of data collections, Ms. Keisha Hutchinson and Ms. Alexandra Pardo; and two teachers from TMA. Thurgood Marshall Academy is a public charter high school in Washington DC located in Ward 8. 90% of the students who enter the school in grade 9 are reading at or below a sixth grade reading level and their math scores

are even less successful. By the end of the 10th grade, 71% of the students are proficient in reading and more than 60% are proficient in math. By the end of the 12th grade, all of the students graduate and go on to college where they continue to receive more academic and sometimes financial support from their high school. What are the keys to success that enables these students to turn their academic careers around and refocus their time and energy on knowledge and skills in the classroom? The team leaders at Thurgood Marshall all agreed it was accountability and responsibility. Teachers administer benchmark assessments a minimum of four times each school year. The data from these assessments are analyzed and interpreted within one week, the

teachers know which children are succeeding and which children need additional supports. The students are involved in this process and become advocates for their own success. For more information go to the website for Thurgood Marshall Academy



Reading the Statistics

All NCAA basketball fans know that March Madness is around the corner. In colleges across the country, young men and women have been shooting hoops for months with the hopes of winning each game. Practice is frequently early in the morning, when

many other students are just rolling over for a look at the clock. These talented athletes study their opponent's statistics to learn the shots and blocks that the other team utilizes to win games. They pour over videos, plan strategies with the coaches and

huddle with each other before each contest. The goals must be the same in the academic classroom. Teachers must use the data and statistics (tests, observations, standardized exams, group work projects) to (continued on page 3)

The Center for Excellence in STEM Education

.By: Alyssa Daehnke

One of the fastest growing majors at TCNJ is the Math/Science/Technology (M/S/T) major. It is a unique multi-disciplinary program that prepares teachers who wish to specialize in math and science in early childhood education, elementary education, special education, and education of the deaf and hard of hearing.

The M/S/T major encourages future teachers to integrate technology and engi-

neering principles into the curriculum that they will use. Steve O'Brien, a Technology Studies Professor at TCNJ, says that the M/S/T major is "one of very few, if not the only, undergraduate majors that ties math, science and technology together with education". Brian Rawlins, a recent TCNJ graduate who majored in M/S/T, says that the M/S/T courses provided him with "multiple strategies in developing lesson plans and increasing student under-

standing".

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills are severely underrepresented in early education right now. Schools must keep up with the rapidly increasing technology of today's world. In order for schools to produce students with a working knowledge of today's technology, the curriculum must instill technological principles at an earlier age. It is very important for teachers to be M/S/T literate

The current economic crisis will challenge just about every public and private institution in America. Schools are no exception. Big budget deficits are likely to mean that per pupil spending will not rise in the near term.

M. Roza,

D. Goldhaber, PT Hill.

Global Student Teachers Get a Visit from TCNJ Professors

In the middle of the cold snap in the east, our brave global student teachers left Philadelphia, Newark, and New York for the next 8 weeks. We have elementary, secondary education, and special education students in South Africa, Spain, Italy, and Croatia, and Thailand. They teach at American Schools and the curriculum is taught in English. Every year our TCNJ students come back to campus with

stories and experiences that will last a life time. Look for their return and the annual roundtable on March 19.

Interested in the global program for 2010? Contact Dr. Robert Bartoletti in the STEP office ASAP!



Kappa Delta Pi

The Gamma Zeta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi at The College of New Jersey has an affiliation with the International Honor Society in Education. It is an active member of an international

network of approximately five hundred chapters all dedicated to the highest of standards in education. The national role of Kappa Delta Pi is to further the aims of education in research, collegiality and service, and to promote academic ideals within the educational community. The award-winning Gamma Zeta Chapter has demonstrated its ability to not only uphold the ideals of the Society, but to exist as a continuing positive force serving both the campus and surrounding community.

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In order for schools to produce students with a working knowledge of today's technology, the curriculum must instill technological principles at an earlier age. It is very important for teachers to be M/S/T literate in order to prepare their students for the world.

In the Department of Labor's most recent job outlook for educators, it was found that, "employment of teachers is expected to grow

by 12 percent between 2006 and 2016", which will create more than 479,000 new positions. There is a definite shortage of teachers in STEM fields, so a student with a degree in M/S/T should have no trouble finding employment upon graduation. Rawlins, now teaching 6th grade math, says that the M/S/T major allowed him to apply for a variety of jobs and be more valuable to employers. TCNJ has had over 150 graduates and current majors

in this field since 2000.

The M/S/T major provides further training which is equal to a minor in one of five specializations: mathematics, technology, biology, chemistry and physics. The M/S/T major is relatively new, but based on its success at TCNJ, it should begin to spread to other major national institutions.

Statistics

implement effective strategies for students to win at learning. How teachers and students plan for success is the difference between reaching your goals or not. Basketball is not a haphazard game. Learning should not be based on happenstance. A teacher wants his/her students to have winning days just as the coach wants his/her team to win the games. The coach must know the strengths of

each player and assist those players who need support from their teammates. This requires deep planning and individualizing the game plan. At the conclusion of the game, if the team wins, the coach huddles with the players and reviews what strategies were most successful so they can implement them again and decide what moves need to be thought out differently. If the team was disap-

pointed by their performance, the coach and players go over minute details to see where the performance could be changed. Listen up pre-service teachers. A game driven by statistics gives the team a heads up on the court. A lesson driven by real data gives the students and the teachers a heads up on success in the classroom.

Despite adolescents constantly challenging authority figures, they need or want limit setting, as it provides a safe boundary in which to grow and function.



President Gitenstein, Jessica Kubek and Jessica Chesney standing in front of posters completed for "The Green Poster Fair held at the Student Center. Their poster was entitled "The U.N.'s Concern: Climate Change: A Poster Presentation by Jessica Kubek, Jessica Chesney and Dawn Besser.