

College of Education | Achievements and Highlights

Prepared for
President Kirk Schulz and Provost April Mason

Highlights and Achievements

Dean Mercer's vision of Grandparents University, or GPU, came to fruition this month when a group of 10 piloted the program from July 28-July 30. The program included a scavenger hunt and bowling followed by tours and educational activities at the Veterinary Medical Center (skeletons and germs), the Beach Museum (art activity), Seaton Hall (building with Legos) and Bluemont Hall (making a movie of the GPU experience with an iPad.) Teara Flagg, graduate student in the Center for Student and Professional Services, planned and organized the event.

Tom Vontz, professor of curriculum and instruction, received notification that the premiere of the "We the People" documentary will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. The film is narrated by Morgan Freeman and Kenny Rogers.

Sandy Risberg, instructor of curriculum and instruction, was a sponsored guest at the Military Child Education Coalition, or MCEC, 2013 National Training Seminar in National Harbor, Maryland, July 7-9. There was great emphasis on creating military conscious schools and education advocacy for military connected students. Risberg connected with and laid the groundwork for future collaboration with other higher education institutions also engaged in the Educate the Educator program.

The Center for Student and Professional Services advanced its vision to be recognized as one of the top inclusive academic advising centers in the country. The center took aggressive steps to improve its technological capabilities to meet the ever-changing needs of students. The priorities addressed include: the acquisition of an iPad and associated training for each advisor to enhance recruitment efforts and communication with students; the selection of Advisor Trac, a software program that allows students and advisors to schedule appointments online; and a digital signage system in the center's lobby that will display advising information for students and parents.

NACADA

- The 2013 Jacksonville Institute is completed, with a final count of 154 participants.
- The numbers for the 2013 Scottsdale Institute (July 28-Aug. 2) were higher than expected.
- Online course (June 3 - July 26) had 116 participants.

Mary Devin, associate professor

- Met with Kansas State Department of Education officials to plan a series of principal academy sessions to be co-hosted by KELI and KSDE during the coming school year. Donna Augustine-Shaw and Barbara Havlicek attended.
- Attended the board of directors meeting of Kansas/Missouri Superintendents Forum in Kansas City to plan professional development events for 2013-2014.

Jane Fishback, associate professor

- Traveled to Turkey from July 22 to Aug. 2 under KSU auspices.
- Led a College of Education How the Brain Learns discussion group, which has 38 participants.

Robert Hachiya, assistant professor

- Attended the School Law Institute at Columbia University from July 8-12. The weeklong class had nationally known presenters in areas of education finance, special education, school law, social justice, charter schools and education reform.

Haijun Kang, assistant professor

- Pilot-tested Virtual Adult Learning Environment, or VALE, in two summer courses.

Frank Spikes, professor

- Elected as vice chair of the Kansas Supreme Court's Commission on Continuing Legal Education. He's the first non-attorney to serve in this role in the commission's history.
- Participated in the commission's first iPad training initiative, which Spikes and the commission's executive director conceptualized and put into action.

Jeff Zacharakis, associate professor

- Attended the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Statistics, STATS-DC 2013 Data Conference, Washington D.C.

Book Chapters

Dwyer, B., & Larson, L. (2014). The writer in the reader: Building communities of response in digital environment. In K. E. Pytash & R.E. Ferdig (Eds.), *Exploring technology for writing and writing instruction* (pp. 202-220). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Rumsey, C. (2013, July). A model to interpret elementary-school students' mathematical arguments. In A. M. Lindmeier, & A. Heinze (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Conference of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education* (Vol. 4, pp. 121-128). Kiel, Germany.

Presentations

Collins, R. A. (2013, July). *Quality standards for accelerated programs*. Colorado Adult Learning Symposium, Denver, CO.

Collins, R.A. (2013, July). *Accelerated programs 101*. Pre-conference workshop, 12th National Conference for Accelerated Programs in Higher Education, Denver, CO.

Collins, R.A. (2013, July). *Assessment and evaluation of programs*. Pre-conference workshop, 12th National Conference for Accelerated Programs in Higher Education, Denver, CO.

Collins, R.A. (2013, July). *Accrediting bodies from across the U.S.- important issues for accelerated programs*. Panel Moderator, 12th National Conference for Accelerated Programs in Higher Education, Denver, CO.

Frost, A.M., & Lane, J.J. (2013, July). *Support for conflict resolution in transitioning kindergartners through middle schoolers*. Presented at the annual National School Safety Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Goodson, L. (2013, July). *Elements of effective writing to promote conceptual understanding and science literacy: Let's focus on the process*. Presented at Advancing 6-12 Science Achievement: SHIFTS in Next Generation Science Teacher, Kansas State University.