S.O.E. GETTING INVOLVED WITH URBAN EDUCATION

The School of Education teamed up with Urban Education through multiple projects this fall. The projects were facilitated through the Professional Development Partnership.

One of those projects was a working relationship between Van Andel Institute and the Grand Rapids Public Schools to train teachers using cognitive research and educational technology in creating project-based learning in the school system. The project was aimed at helping teachers individualize learning and differentiate within the classroom to meet the many needs of inter-city children.

Another partnership with Muskegon Public Schools and its Math & Science Center was aimed at training teachers in the conceptual nature of mathematics and science for each grade level. The training assisted teachers in methods for teaching math and science while addressing a learning need of Muskegon students as shown by MEAP scores.

The School of Education is also actively involved in the Minority Achievers Program, sponsored through the Downtown YMCA in Grand Rapids. The School of Education has brought 108 students into the diversity and classroom management courses at GVSU. the purpose of this program is to motivate African American youth to set educational and career goals.

READING ENDORSEMENTS RECEIVE STATE APPROVAL

Several reading endorsement programs proposed by GVSU's School of Education have received approval from the state of Michigan.

Reading endorsements will now be offered in elementary reading teacher, secondary reading teacher and K-12 reading specialist. The K-12 reading specialist endorsement requires completion of a master's degree, plus a few additional courses.

For additional information, contact Caryn King in the School of Education.

JOSEPH PRICE: 1934-2001

A memorial service celebrating the life of former School of Education professor Joseph Price, Ph.D., was held Sept. 26, 2001 at Cook DeWitt Chapel on Grand Valley State University's Allendale campus.

Dr. Price, who taught in both graduate and post graduate special education programs in the School of Education for 11 years, passed away in September following a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Mickey.

At GVSU, Price helped coordinate a "Books To Africa" campaign and was actively involved in recruiting efforts involving GVSU's Office of Minority Affairs. He was also one of the founding members of the Colleagues editorial board.

Library Services Program Goes On-line

There is a need for a number of professionals in School Media Library Services and The School of Education is offering a number of web enhanced courses to help teachers obtain certification.

"There continues to be a shortage of qualified media specialists in the state of Michigan, and about 75 school library media positions went unfulfilled last year," professor Sherill Pryor said. "It's a wide-open field and library media specialists are needed all over the state.

"There are very few universities offering the program so there are not enough places to educate these people and part of the reason to offer these courses on-line is to reach out to more people. It's fulfilling a need toward getting more qualified people in the field."Currently, GVSU offers 11 courses toward media library services certification. Two of those classes are web enhanced and are offered on-line. Between two and five face-to-face class meeting sessions are also required.

Of the 11 courses, two have been web enhanced, two more are currently being cataloged and the others are being set up by corresponding professors and will be offered in the web-enhanced format beginning in the Fall of 2002.

Qualified applicants to the program -- which requires 33 credit hours to complete -- shall have a bachelor's degree and teaching certificate. The series of classes include library media courses and an field practicum experience.

Information may be obtained by contacting Pryor via e-mail (pryors@gvsu.edu).

Doctoral Partnership Celebrates First Graduate

The School of Education is proud to announce that Lori Tubbergen Zahrt has become the first student to earn her Ed.D. degree by successfully completing the Educational Leadership doctoral partnership program with Eastern Michigan University.

Tubbergen Zahrt, curriculum director for the Newaygo County Intermediate School District, conducted the final defense of her doctoral dissertation on Nov. 6, 2001. She was part of the initial cohort of 20 graduate students -- including superintendents, principals and other K-12 professional educators -- who began pursuing the Ed.D. degree in the fall of 1998.

"It has been a long road, but it has been an awesome one as well," Tubbergen Zahrt said. "This cohort allowed us all to be stretched and really grow in the field, and look at educational research and data and apply it to what we do in our jobs. That has been wonderful."

The Educational Leadership doctoral program provides weekend classes at the L.V. Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids and is delivered by Eastern Michigan University faculty. It is the only doctoral program offered in Grand Rapids.

"It is definitely fulfilling a need and came along at a really good time for many of us in the cohort," Tubbergen Zahrt said. "There are 19 other people that we've had as a support system and been able to exchange ideas."

Lori Tubbergen Zahrt

A second cohort is currently underway. The third cohort is forming in February 2002 and will begin with orientation sessions next summer.

"The program is delivered entirely on weekends at the GVSU downtown campus by faculty members from Eastern Michigan University who have all been school administrators," said Bob Hagerty, director of special programs for The School of Education. "It is specially designed and tailored for practicing school administrators in West Michigan."

Application information for the fall 2002 cohort may be obtained by contacting Lisa Robinson, the GVSU-EMU doctoral partnership liaison, at 616.895.3554.

"You need to be able to commit a lot of time and energy to a doctoral program, and you need to be serious and committed in that effort," Tubbergen Zahrt said. "It's about setting a goal and meeting the goal."

H.I./P.P.I. Crossover Endorsements Offered

Crossover endorsements in special education are now being offered to GVSU undergraduates in areas of hearing impaired and pre-primary impaired.

"We think that it is an appropriate crossover for teachers dealing with hearing impaired students," said Ed Birch, GVSU's coordinator of special education. "This allows them to have sufficient credits to complete the program with their dual enrollment, and also allow them to begin taking graduate classes while they are still and undergraduate student.

"Most people in the profession believe the pre-primary impaired area is a more appropriate and logical crossover for hearing impaired specialists than mental impairment or emotional impairment, which was previously offered. It is another option for students, not a requirement. Later on, it may become a requirement."

Two special education endorsements are required for degree-seeking students. In the past, pre-primary impaired endorsements had only been offered at the graduate level. The endorsements now apply toward graduation requirements and to graduate studies.

"By the time they graduate with a bachelors degree, it provides them with a pre-primary approval areas for their area of specialty, and in addition to that, they will have acquired some graduate credit, which they were previously unable to do at the undergraduate level," Birch said.