

"... the skills and resources to transform educators ..."

Foundations & Technology Unites Undergraduate & Graduate Faculty

The School of Education's Educational Foundations & Technology Unit has implemented a time proven approach to efficiency of scale.

Although the unit isn't totally new — basic foundation courses have been the core of teacher education since the very beginning — the melding of resources has empowered the division with a newfound cohesiveness by combining the expertise and resources from both the undergraduate and graduate foundation faculty in the School of Education.

"For years, we've had two separate units within the School of Education," unit head Dr. David Bair said. "By combining, it is a pooling of resources.

"Before, there was never a time to meet and discuss foundations issues. Now we have that opportunity to meet and present things and get support and input and sort things out collectively.

"What it has changed the most is not the programs or degrees, but what we're doing in our decisions-making mode," Bair added. "We have more of the people who need to be at the table making those decisions, instead of being separated in graduate and undergraduate divisions. We now have a little more focus and meaningful movement within our departments and can decide something real quickly."

Among the subject areas in the unit are Educational Psychology, Educational Research and Measurement, Educational Issues, Educational Technology.

"It draws faculty and staff together on all issues of foundation courses," Bair said. "It creates a central place to do that.

"We still have our own full faculty meetings, but now we also have unit meetings where we can discuss the conceptual differences and have a common work focus."

The technology piece has organized the undergraduate technology course and graduate program in technology. There also is a broadening of



Dr. David Bair depicts the goals of Educational Foundations & Technology.

the service learning component taking place in courses where a number of faculty have taken initiatives to provide service learning in inner-city schools, according to Bair.

"We see them as issues that transcend the entire curriculum," Bair said.

Standing members of the department include Marty Abramson, Bair, Russ Barneveld, Sue Carson, Bob Cross, Judy Donovan, Roger Finlan, Louis Hilton, Loretta Konecki, Sean Lancaster, Faite Mack, Cindy Mader, Jennifer Mahon, Ron Postma, Sherrill Pryor, Andrew Topper, Jolanda Westerhof-Shultz, Sherie Williams, Roger Wilson and Stephen Worst.

The unit uses a Ghandi saying as its motto: "Become the change you wish to see in others."

"We're trying to live it every day," Bair said.

New Student & Information Services Center Provides One-Stop Shopping

The School of Education has created easier access to programs and information with the formation of its Student Information and Services Center.

Located on the first floor of the Eberhard Center at GVSU's Pew Campus in Grand Rapids, The Student Information and Services Center serves as the nerve center of the School of Education.

"Because it's right on the first floor, it provides easy access," Student Services Center Director Jacqueline Melin said. "It's just beautiful, and the university has done a wonderful job putting it together."

The newly formed center provides information on admissions to graduate school, placements for undergraduates, student advising and certification programs.

"All phone calls and questions come here, and we can answer their questions right here, or get them immediately to the right person they need to talk to," says Melin.

The center has an A.P.A.C. theme for Admissions & Audits, Placement, Advising and Certification.

- Admissions & Audits helps students attain undergraduate admission into the Teacher Education Professional Program; GTC admission; graduate program admissions; and audits at both graduate and undergraduate levels.

- Placement helps provide appointments into the field for teacher assisting and student teaching — elementary, secondary and special educa-



Jacqueline Melin and her staff make themselves available to accommodate pre-service teachers at the Student & Information Services Center.

tion, or for placement into the field for the Graduate Teacher Certification year-long internship.

- Advising provides informational assistance at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

- Certification and advising help is available for initial certification, 18-hour planned programs, endorsements and additional certificates.

To help accommodate access to the programs, the center is wired for computers with enhanced electronic scheduling.

"We've attempted to streamline things to make it work smoother," Melin said. "With knowledge of both undergraduate and graduate programs, we're able to do a lot better job at helping students."