
Winthrop University

Professional Development Schools

NEWSLETTER

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A collaborative partnership between the Richard W. Riley College of Education, Winthrop Olde English Consortium Board of Governors, Cotton Belt Elementary School, Crowders Creek Complex, Lancaster High School, Lewisville Elementary School, and Sullivan Middle School

THE VISION AND MISSION

The PDSs began in 1993 to link the university's teacher education resources with the Winthrop Olde English Consortium's six area school districts. The aim of the PDS is to strengthen teacher education and development by serving as exemplary sites of instruction, builders of knowledge and vehicles for mentoring novice and experienced teachers.

The mission of each PDS is dedicated to meet four purposes:

1. Provide exemplary education.
2. Renew and improve professional preparation programs.
3. Establish continuing professional development opportunities for both public school and Winthrop University educators.
4. Conduct an organized program of school-based research designed to improve practice.

Each PDS directs its resources to connect theory and practice in such a way as to meet the educational needs of South Carolina's children.

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INTERNALLY SPEAKING

Submitted by
Kristie Taylor
(Lancaster High School educator)

During the fall semester, Lancaster High has been fortunate to work with four student interns from Winthrop University. Two interns are working in our social studies department, one in special education and one in guidance. Other departments, especially math and science, are jealous that no interns were available in their areas.

Ms. Kelly Knight is working with U.S. history and economics teacher Sara Fleming. She is majoring in political science and works with one junior class and one senior class. On her first day she was overcome with anxiety about what the day would hold.

"I thought the students would be wild and that they would eat me alive," Knight said. "Now I know they just want someone to listen to them and treat them like human beings."

Knight's mentor teacher, Ms. Fleming, has also gained a reward from Knight's first day to the present. "The greatest thing about having a student intern is watching her grow into what I consider to be a really good teacher," Fleming said. "She really has done a good job and it's been my reward to watch her."

The second intern for the social studies department is Ms. Jessica Rivers. She is also working with U.S. History classes, but is working with advanced placement teacher Ms. Kitty Outen. Rivers enjoys watching "the light come on" as students in her classes begin to understand the concept she is teaching.

Ms. Shawn Browning is working with the special education department. Great teachers she has known inspired

Browning to go into the field herself.

Our one male intern, Mr. Cleve Suber, is working with Eric Byrd in our guidance department. Suber enjoys working with youth and helping them accomplish their goals.

Byrd sees the intern process as one of the most valuable educational experiences. Byrd stated, "Everything you do as an intern is relevant to your occupation. Being an intern helps produce necessary skills to develop into a guidance counselor."

SUSTAINING INQUIRY

Submitted by
Dr. Susan Green
(Winthrop PDS broker)

Cotton Belt Elementary School (CBES) student interns are currently involved in many activities to expand their internship experience. In early November, they participated in "mock" professional interviews conducted by a team of CBES administrators and teachers. Matt Brown, CBES principal, took the interns on a bus tour of the school's attendance area. The CBES faculty also shared their best advice, ideas, and strategies at two share sessions for the interns this month.

The CBES PDS Committee has developed a brochure that showcases Cotton Belt and its partnership activities with Winthrop. The committee has also been reviewing NCATE standards for PDS schools. Several CBES/WU team members have presented at state and national conferences recently. At the 2001 South Carolina Professional Development Schools Leadership Academy, Julie Taylor and Paulette