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Leading Edge Spring 2017

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Richard W. Riley College of Education

Leading Edge

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New China Partnership

In March 2017, the Richard W. Riley College of Education entered into a partnership with Ellson Education that will provide new cultural and international teaching opportunities for Winthrop teacher candidates, faculty and local P-12 teachers. Dean Jennie Rakestraw and Associate Deans Lisa Johnson and Beth Costner travelled to Shijiazhuang, China, and toured the Ellson Elite Schools where children ages three and older receive English language instruction through after school and summer camp programs. Two initiatives will launch the Winthrop-Ellson partnership. For upper-level teacher candidates, recent graduates, faculty and teachers from local schools that are part of Winthrop's Partnership Network, a one-month teaching and cultural experience will be offered in July during which participants will join Ellson's staff to offer summer camp programs. For licensed teachers or others who are graduates of teacher preparation or associated fields, a year-long teaching experience in an Ellson Elite School is possible. For more information about these Ellson international teaching and cultural opportunities, including application and selection processes, see the Jim and Sue Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnerships web site at www2.winthrop.edu/rex. Information about the Shanghai Far East School cultural/internship opportunity that is offered to select graduating seniors is also available on the site.

Persistence Pays Off for EXSC Alumna Kelsey Ritter

Kelsey Ritter is a 2015 graduate of the exercise science program and a four-year member of the Winthrop women's softball team, making the Dean's List and earning All-Academic honors

through the Athletics Department. She was inducted into the Phi Epsilon Kappa (PEK) honor society. Her goal, like many exercise science students, was to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

Ritter was an excellent applicant due to her strong academic record and time management skills that she developed as a Division I athlete. However, she was wait-listed at several programs but persisted with the encouragement and guidance of her Winthrop academic advisor, Janet Wojcik, associate professor and program director of exercise science.

After her undergraduate internship at Atlantic Physical Therapy in Virginia, Ritter completed additional observations in pediatric therapy in Rock Hill, and worked in an outpatient clinic in Charlotte focusing on women's health. She received great news this past spring when she was accepted to the DPT program at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Worcester, Massachusetts. She will start the program in August 2017.





Making an Impact in Rock Hill Schools

The College of Education has experienced another exciting year serving students in the Rock Hill local community through the literacy clinics offered in two Rock Hill schools. For five weeks each semester, 35 students at Finley Road Elementary School and Sunset Park Elementary School worked with READ 370 teacher candidates in an afterschool setting to strengthen their literacy skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and writing. Some of the activities used to engage students in learning these skills included: forming letters in sand, creating words with sound cards, participating in reader's theater and reading high-interest books. In addition to tutoring students in the afterschool literacy clinic, our candidates work directly with elementary-aged children in classrooms during the school day. Twice a week for five weeks, candidates worked with students in one-on-one, small group and whole group settings. For small group instruction, several of our special education candidates taught lessons in Winthrop's Macfeat Laboratory School. These projects are made possible by the continuing support of Peggy and Gary Williams of Rock Hill. A portion of their generous financial gift to the literacy program in the College of Education has provided literary materials for the school-based clinic and the kindergarten level guided reading materials needed for Macfeat. The literacy clinic impacts the literacy learning for more than 150 school-aged children each year and continues to expand.





The Macfeat Laboratory School and Family Engagement

Recognizing a strong focus on family involvement, the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) awarded Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School at Winthrop University an Honorable Mention in its **2016 Family Engagement Contest**. The school will be featured in the summer issue of SECA's *Dimensions of Early Childhood* journal. Only two schools were chosen for this category in the entire 12-state region.

Macfeat Director Erin Hamel notes, "The Macfeat teachers truly believe in the value of home-school partnerships and are exemplary models for building and maintaining strong relationships with families. They are an inspiration to me and to so many of our college students." She went on to explain that the teachers intentionally invite families to "share their expertise, skills and

hobbies in our classrooms. Teachers have meaningful, authentic face-to-face conversations with families on a daily basis and those communications, along with many others, not only help establish a sense of trust and rapport; they provide invaluable information that allows both parties to provide the best care for the child.”

Established in 1899, Macfeat Laboratory School is considered the oldest operating laboratory school in the United States. Hamel describes the classrooms as “lively, busy spaces where children are given the time and materials to explore, create, problem-solve, think critically and imagine.”

“With specific regards to family engagement, what makes Macfeat different from other childcare facilities is that our school truly embraces the mindset that strong, meaningful family-school relationships are crucially important to children's overall well-being,” she says. “The school is an exemplary organic model of families and teachers working together to support the learning and development of children.”

For more information on the Macfeat Laboratory School, please visit:

<https://www.winthrop.edu/macfeat/default.aspx?id=13640>.



Partnership Network News

Please enjoy the latest edition of the Winthrop University-School Partnership Network newsletter





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