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Leading Edge January 2019

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Winthrop University

Richard W. Riley College of Education

Leading Edge
EDUCATE. COLLABORATE. INNOVATE.



Pictured: The first Ed.S. cohort with Program Coordinator Dr. Sherry Hoyle (far right).

Educational Leadership Specialist Degree Now Offered

Principals or district office personnel may be wondering, "What is the next step on my professional journey?" If the answer is to continue academic pursuits, then Winthrop University can provide individuals with the opportunity to receive an [Ed.S. in educational leadership](#) degree from a nationally accredited educational leadership program, with the option to continue toward a doctoral degree.

The purpose of the Winthrop University Ed.S. program is to develop school district leaders who are interested in becoming superintendents, central office administrators, program directors or leaders in curriculum and instruction. The program utilizes a cohort model, which provides students the opportunity to develop and nurture professional relationships that will extend beyond the program. The program requirement is 30 credit hours, consisting of 10 classes. Program completers are then eligible to seek superintendent licensure through the S.C. Department of Education.

The objectives of the program of study are to broaden the understanding of students' roles as leaders in the organization in which they serve; demonstrate leadership competencies and skills needed to lead at the district level; gain an understanding of the theoretical concepts that underpin organizational theory, behavior, leadership, research, and educational administration; and address current issues or problems of practice faced by those in district leadership positions.

A guarantee for all participants is that they will gain valuable professional preparation, in addition to networking and growth opportunities to continue to succeed professionally.



Macfeat Summer Camp with Bilingual Children

This past summer, Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School partnered with the Rock Hill School District to pilot a week-long summer literacy camp for 17 early childhood bilingual children. The camp, funded by generous Winthrop Foundation donor Mrs. Nancy Jones, provided a literacy-rich, engaging learning environment for rising kindergarteners and first graders. Directed by Erin Hamel, Spanish-speaking teacher Rebeca Garcia, and English-speaking teacher Liz McNelly, and aided by five peer mentors—rising fourth through sixth graders enrolled in the language immersion program at Richmond Drive Elementary School—an engaging and creative space was created for the campers to grow and develop their bilingual literacy skills.

“My hope was that we could offer an educational space that would provide a literacy-rich experience for a population of young children who don’t often receive this opportunity,” explained Hamel. The teachers aimed to intentionally create a space where all of the children and families would feel valued and honored. It became evident early in the week that bonds were quickly being formed between the young campers, campers and peer mentors, and teachers and camp participants. For some campers, this was their very first school experience. Their eagerness to hop on the school bus and their smiling faces that continued throughout the day were a testament to the success of the camp. On the last day, families were invited to join the campers for a celebration, where all camp participants joined together to sing, dance, share artwork and enjoy special snacks.

Responses on family surveys, completed on the last day of camp, were overwhelmingly positive. The majority of families asked for the age-range and length of time of future emergent bilingual summer literacy camps at Macfeast to be expanded. A planning team for summer 2019 is assembling, and we look forward to new and exciting camp experiences next summer!



Pictured (L-R): PETE instructor Kathy Sullivan and program director Kathy Davis.

PETE Program Recognized with SCAHPERD's Distinguished Organization Service Award

Our Physical Education program (PETE) was selected as the Distinguished Organization Award Recipient for 2018 at the annual meeting of the South Carolina Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (SCAHPERD). The program was recognized for its 100% pass rate on the teacher certification exam, the many program graduates who have been named Teacher of the Year in their schools and districts, and Winthrop's long-standing reputation as a leader in physical education. Dr. Kathy Davis, program director, accepted the award for Winthrop.



Winthrop Graduate Awarded North Carolina High School PE Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Shon Kendall '06, '09, a graduate from Winthrop's physical education program, for being recognized as North Carolina's High School PE Teacher of the Year. Kendall is currently teaching health and physical education at East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte.



Ellson Summer Camp

Last summer, Winthrop University's Rex Institute for Educational Renewal sponsored an inquiry-based learning camp with an "international twist." For two weeks in mid-July, members of the Winthrop University-School Partnership Network (faculty, teachers, and upper-level teacher candidates) had the opportunity for a unique personal and professional experience--working with students hailing not only from South Carolina, but China!



Ellson Education is an organization started by four Chinese teachers dedicated to providing Chinese students with a curriculum that is authentic and engaging while building a solid foundation in the English language. Using English immersion, the Content and Language Integrated Learning methodology, and the Pearson Education curriculum set, Ellson works to ensure their students receive the very best international-level quality training. Through the partnership with Ellson, candidates have an opportunity to experience one-month summer teaching/cultural experiences in China as well as full-time teaching employment.


Last summer, the tables turned and ten Ellson students and three accompanying Ellson teachers came to South Carolina, immersing themselves in American culture and language for ten days of fun and learning. The Ellson campers stayed in Winthrop dorm rooms, ate at Winthrop's Thomson Café, and explored other campus amenities like the West Center's rock climbing wall and swimming pool, the ropes course and the Richard W. Riley College of Education's Information Technology Center for 3D printing. Campers also went off campus to tour partner schools and meet local students at Sugar Creek Elementary School and Nation Ford High School and to explore American culture. From tasting McDonald's and pepperoni pizza to riding roller coasters at Carowinds, from visiting historical sites like King's Mountain State Park and Reed's Gold Mine to racing down the track at Charlotte's Motor Speedway and seeing the inner workings of the human body at Discovery Place Science, Ellson students received the full array of experiences that our region has to offer.



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