Successful National and State Continuing Accreditation Visits

By David Whaley

On November 16-20, 2002, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and the state agencies, Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), conducted a continuing accreditation review of the School of Education’s initial and advanced educator preparation programs. These accreditation reviews were successful in their outcomes with very positive results for Colorado State University.

NCATE

The NCATE BOE chair (Mary Harris) reported that the School of Education (SOE) competently met all six NCATE standards for both the initial program and the advanced program of educator preparation. The chair also reported many areas of strengths, including:

- the results of the “Bridge” hiring program for faculty,
- the extent of collaboration across campus,
- the use of the Teacher Work Sample,
- the strength of the PDS model and our collaboration with PSD, and
- many others.

The team was most impressed with the openness of our faculty and students and our responsiveness to their team. They reported that they found our candidates and faculty thoughtful, cordial, and collegial.

CCHE/CDE

The State accreditation team chair (Patty Gettle) reported that the State team recognized the following strengths in the unit:

- The field experience component throughout the program is strong and is infused in an “effortless” fashion.
- The science education program reflects good science teacher candidates and professors.
- The early childhood education program also reflects high quality in its candidates and faculty/teachers.
- The ED 450 course is of high quality.
- There is a very strong collaboration between the P-12 school community and the School of Education.
- The State team was very impressed with the way that literacy is delivered across the education curriculum.
- The State team was very pleased with the infusion of technology.
- The State team was pleased with the number of assessments occurring throughout the unit and with our candidates’ skills with assessment.

Although the SOE met all standards for both the national and state agencies, there were a few areas, within the standards, cited for improvement. Efforts to make improvements are currently underway. The School did exceedingly well – thanks to faculty, campus colleagues, and off-campus colleagues and partners. In reviewing the activities during the five days of on-site accreditation review, there were approximately 36 different sessions, involving over 100 different initial and advanced candidates and approximately 60 different faculty and administrators. These were complex visits, involving on-site visits to many units on-campus and also four local high schools, three junior highs, one elementary school, and the University’s Early Childhood Center.

The positive reports by both teams support what we have known all along . . . that programs of initial and advanced educator preparation and the faculty, administration, and candidates at Colorado State University are of the highest caliber and quality.

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Center for the Study of Learning and Teaching at a Distance

A new research center, called the Center for the Study of Learning and Teaching at a Distance, is now housed in the School of Education. The center builds upon the SOE’s programming by promoting and supporting distance learning and teaching as a field of scholarly inquiry. Research conducted under the Center’s umbrella is intended to add to the knowledge base about the creation, delivery, and efficacy of distance education courses and programs and make contributions to an emerging field of study. The center start-up is supported by the School of Education, the College of Applied Human Sciences, and the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Information Technology.

The new research center has made a special effort to make connections with other faculty with similar interests across campus. This past fall, the center sponsored a campus-wide Faculty Grant Initiative that solicited research proposals from faculty members across a broad spectrum of disciplines who are currently involved in distance education.

This successful initiative created links with faculty members from the Department of Clinical Sciences, the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, the Department of Design and Merchandising, the Office of Instructional Services, the Department of Journalism and Technical Communication, and the School of Social Work.

In addition, the center has sponsored occasional papers on subjects related to the center’s research agenda, which focuses on research on the faculty role and teaching at a distance; learners and learning at a distance; and program evaluation for distance education.

A recently commissioned study, to be undertaken by faculty and graduate students in the School, will provide a profile of distance education programming on the Colorado State University campus. It will be used as a framework for conducting a similar statewide study next year.

The center’s director is Dr. Len Albright and the research coordinator is Dr. Sally Bomotti.
challenging financial times.

you to continue your support and giving to the School during these efforts to excel. As circumstances continue to change, as budget Quality Counts.

innovative work underway. These and other funded projects highlight the dealing with equity-related issues involving race, gender, language, secondary education and the workplace. The federally funded Equity learning disabled students to assist in their transition to post- technology. Jean Lehmann and Tim Davies are working with is examining past research on effective transition programs.

Works" grant, led by Brian Cobb utilizing a team of CSU faculty, numerous projects in the Research and Development Center for edge aspects of teaching and learning for K-12 schools. Our programs involving multiple teaching methodologies.

outgrowth of the efforts the School has pursued to be a leader in technology driven instruction and learning. This Center is a natural the School launched its new Center for the Study of Learning and new research and original program development. For example, 

"Quite clearly, the uncertainty we all face has not deterred our efforts to excel." Several of our large grants and contracts deal with cutting edge aspects of teaching and learning for K-12 schools. Our collaboration with Poudre School District continues with numerous projects in the Research and Development Center for the Advancement of Student Learning. Our federally funded, "What Works" grant, led by Brian Cobb utilizing a team of CSU faculty, is examining past research on an effective transition programs. Teresa Yahn's two federally funded projects focus on improving instruction in teacher preparation through the use of advanced technology, Jean Lehmann and Tim Davies are working with learning disabled students to assist in their transition to post- secondary education and the workplace. The federally funded Equity Assistance Center provides educators in a six-state region support in dealing with equity-related issues involving race, gender, language, and school violence. These and other funded projects highlight the innovation work underway.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us on April 11 for our annual Spring Conference, where we present an afternoon of professional development sessions and a keynote dinner presentation by Eric Hirsch, the Executive Director of the Colorado Alliance for Quality Teaching. Eric will be discussing the recent rating of C- for teaching in Colorado in the Education Week publication, Quality Counts.

Quite clearly, the uncertainty we all face has not deterred our efforts to excel. As circumstances continue to change, as budget difficulties mount, as the trauma of a world in crisis challenges us all, the School of Education intends to continue its progress and look ahead. We appreciate the support of our alumni and friends and ask you to continue your support and giving to the School during these challenging financial times.

R&D Center Projects Improve Colorado Education

The Research and Development Center for the Advancement of Student Learning is a collaborative partnership between Poudre School District and Colorado State University's College of Applied Human Sciences. The purpose of the Center; co-directed by Brian Cobb and Ann Foster, is to research innovative programs and to determine best practices for teaching and learning in schools. The following are two examples of the many projects taken on by the R & D Center.

Just for the Kids Initiative Evaluates Schools

The R & D Center is currently participating in a multi-state program called Just for the Kids. Programs that rate schools such as the CSPAP ratings in Colorado don't take any other factors into consideration besides performance. There are a myriad of factors which can affect outcomes, especially the demographics of the student population. Just for the Kids strives to rank schools taking into account three risk factors - socio- economic status, English language capability, and length of enrollment, allowing for a more fair comparison, since those are factors which can make instruction challenging. 17 school districts in Colorado are participating in the program, and results will be posted on a Web site this spring at www.justforkids.org. An additional phase of the project will look at why certain schools facing the same challenges have performed better than others. What are the educational and organizational practices which contribute to success? Funding for the program has been provided by a three year grant from the Rose Community Foundation totaling more than $160,000, and $20,000 grant from the Donnell Kay Foundation, as well as individual school districts who participate in the project.

Block Scheduling Contributes to Improved Learning

The R & D Center recently helped answer a pressing question facing schools – does block scheduling improve student performance? In block scheduling, students are in one class for an hour and a half instead of just 55 minutes which theoretically contributes to better learning because there is more time to cover material in depth. R & D looked at two types of block scheduling at Blevins Junior High School in Fort Collins: 4x4 and Alternate Day. Over a two year period, 4x4 scheduling allows students to take four classes each day instead of the traditional seven; thus they complete four courses in one semester and change to four new courses the next semester. Alternate Day scheduling also allows for four classes each day, but students take eight courses during the year and attend on alternate days. The study found that the students in both types of block scheduling performed outstanding regular scheduling and alternate day scheduling was better, particularly for lower achieving kids. All in all, the study found that achievement was statistically significant enough to support switching over to block scheduling.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

For information about 2003 Summer classes at CSU, see www.summer.colostate.edu/, CONSUMER AND FAMILY STUDIES RECRUITMENT

The Consumer and Family Studies (CFS) interdepartmental degree program will be hosting the 7th Annual “One for the Family” recruitment campaign on April 3-5, 2003. High school students and their guardians are invited to attend the Center for the Study of Learning and Teaching at a Distance this past fall, with the goal of examining technology driven instruction and learning. This Center is a natural outgrowth of the efforts the School has pursued to be a leader in distance education, as we already offer several Master’s and Ph.D. programs involving multiple teaching methodologies.

Families at Five

Families at Five is a community-based seminar series for adults and children that provides practical application of the most recent research on families, parenting, children, and relationships. Families at Five is hosted by the Center for family and Couple Life at the Human Development and Family Studies Department. The seminars are free and open to the community with a Children’s Program for ages 3-11.

Upcoming Families at Five Programs

Time: 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Location: 502 West Lake, Gifford Building, CSU Campus, Room 113 NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY – Please call (970) 491-6139 for more information

Building Strong In-Law Relationships

April 3, 2003 Shanna Skellern, M.S., CSU Human Development & Family Studies Alum

From the "To Do" List to the "Done" List: Using Coaching to Conquer Procrastination

May 1, 2003 Sara Supereman, M.S., MSW, LIMFT, Founder of the Great Relationships Education Center

YOUTH SPORT CAMPS

Preparations are underway for the Youth Sport Camps 2003 program. Ten weeks of this day camp program are scheduled for this summer. Camp sessions start Monday, June 2 with Baseball and Super Sports camp. Other activities scheduled for June include basketball, soccer, volleyball, and line hockey, and tennis. Camp staff will again include graduate and undergraduate students from the Department of Health and Exercise Science. For schedule and information call (970) 491-6318 or visit www.cahs.colostate.edu/hes/escamps.htm.

KIDS IN COLLEGE (KIC)

The College of Applied Human Sciences sponsored "Kids In College" (KIC) this past summer (2002) – the fifth year. One hundred four through eighth graders participated in 30 different classes. Seven scholarships were provided for low-income families. Need is established by participation in free or reduced lunch programs. Goals of KIC are to expose younger children to the University, and to the programs and career opportunities of the Colleges. Programs are designed as enrichment and exploration skills and processes to enhance learning and content knowledge in the areas of science, math, art, and technology.

Sessions included: Making Multimedia: Weather Research; ReadSmart!!!, Little Shop of Physics; Robotics; Portfolio Development for Fashion Design; Coil Kitchen Chemistry; Computer Aided Design for Clothing; Drawing in Perspective; Fun with Chemistry; Digital Photography; Internet How To; Art Exploration; Bully Proofing; and Sign Language.

Summer 2003, for students entering fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, sessions are from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., June 23 - 27 and July 14 - 18. For students entering seventh and eighth grades, June 16 - 20.

Detailed schedules and registration materials for KIC 2003 will be available after April 15. Visit our Web site at www.cahs.colostate.edu/kic or call (970) 491-6332.
YOUTH SPORT CAMPS
In 2002, the Youth Sport Camps registered over 1,500 children in a variety of activities, such as baseball, softball, tennis, soccer, and volleyball. The programs are linked to the department’s outreach mission, with students planning activities and instructing school-age campers. Campers received information on the role of good nutrition and exercise in a healthy lifestyle. The majority of instructors for the Youth Sport Camps were Health and Exercise Science undergraduate and graduate majors. See the Upcoming Events section for information on sports camps for 2003.

TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT ISSUES RELATED TO GENDER, RACE, AND CLASS
Toni Schindler Zimmerman, a faculty member in the department of Human Development and Family Studies, has been spending a lot of time in the local elementary schools recently. Toni developed a curriculum about teaching children about issues related to gender, race, and class. This curriculum is the foundation for a film produced by the Cambridge Film Company, Cambridge Mass. The film crew traveled to Fort Collins in the fall of 2002 to video Toni and several teachers from her team working with children. Through a service-learning grant, Toni and several of her students will be going to elementary schools in the area to teach the curriculum. If you knew of a teacher who would like to have this two hour workshop, call Toni at (970) 491-6532 or Zimmerman@cahs.colostate.edu.

FINANCIAL PLANNING PROGRAM FOR TEENS
Dr. Judy McKenna, Professor in the Department of Design and Merchandising, along with a team of colleagues, has developed a financial literacy web-based training for educators who work with youth and parents who want to increase the financial decision making skills of teenagers. The web-based training meets the needs of adults who are interested in educating teens about money, but have no time to attend a meeting or training. There is no charge and the training can be accessed directly at www.retaf.org.

NEFE also funded this project. Contact Judy McKenna at mckenna@cahs.colostate.edu or (970) 491-5772.

INTERIOR DESIGN CURRICULUM FOR K-12
Dr. Stephanie Clemens in the Design and Merchandising received a $24,000 research grant from The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Foundation to develop a national model for an interior design curriculum to be taken in grades 9-12. A framework for curriculum was developed taking into consideration state and local administration policies of national education standards, resource and budget allocation within states and individual school districts, and technology resources. Pending is the third phase of this research project which will involve the development of additional materials for pilot testing in specific communities. The Journal of Interior Design as well as Interiors and Sources published articles concerning part of the developed model. Part of the model also appears in the textbook, Handbook of Professional Practice by Cindy Coleman.

CSMATE RECEIVES $428,000 GRANT FROM HEWLETT PACKARD
Colorado State University’s Center for Science Mathematics and Technology Education, in support of its Center for Learning and Teaching in the West project (CLTW) has been awarded $428,000 grant from the Hewlett-Packard Company. The gift will support CLTW’s focus on enhancing support of its Center for Learning and Teaching in the West project (CLTW) has been awarded a $428,000 grant from Hewlett-Packard Company. The gift will support CLTW’s focus on enhancing support of its Center for Learning and Teaching in the West project (CLTW) has been awarded a $428,000 grant from Hewlett-Packard Company.

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Grants Information

What Works - Synthesizing Secondary School Effects: The What Works Translating Research Synthesis Project is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to review and synthesize the past 20 years of research and advancements in the area of transition for youth with disabilities. The group of researchers, educators, parents, and practitioners from CSU are working with a national advisory board of experts from around the country to develop and disseminate the research synthesis. The project goals include producing research summaries of empirical and non-empirical transmission literature, and proactively disseminating all written products. Data briefs, a Web site, and conference presentations will be integral components of the dissemination of the results. The "What Works Data Brief" publication is available online at www.ncset.org. For information, contact Dr. Brian Cobb at cobb@email.colostate.edu (970) 491-6835.

National Science Foundation Rural Teacher Preparation Initiative: The Northern Colorado Community College/University Rural Teacher Preparation Initiative is funded by the National Science Foundation and is coordinated by faculty in the School of Education and the Center for Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education at CSU as well as faculty from the partner community colleges: Aims, Front Range (Laramie Campus), Morgan, and Northern Junior College. The partnership aims to bolster the recruitment and retention of diverse and rural students into careers in teaching mathematics, science, and technology. The Spring Conference will be held April 17 at Aims Community College in Greeley, CO. For information, contact Christine Jones at (970) 491-1700 or Peggy Lofquist at (970) 491-4669.

FPISE: Starting Fall 2003, the Colorado Credentialing Learning System (CCLS) will support the needs for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers. Based on the teacher’s prior learning, performance-based, competency-focused online modules will be combined to develop coursework to meet credentialing standards. CCLS and the Online Credentialing process are supported through a Learning Anytime, Anywhere Partnership grant (FPISE) through the Department of Education.

PT3: The Colorado Technology in Teacher Education Consortium (CTTEC) has provided Poudre School District teachers, CSU faculty, and pre-service students opportunities to extend their technology knowledge and integration skills over the past three years. For spring, workshops in the use of Palm in the classroom, course Web site development, graphics, interactive PowerPoint, and inspiration are offered for the CSU faculty. For teachers, Project TRU (Technology Rich Units) has combined a student teacher, a cooperating teacher, and CTTEC staff to develop a lesson unit, or project that integrates technology. Through CTTEC’s Web site (http://seite.cahs.colostate.edu/cttec), teachers can find Internet resources by content area and educational topics as well as a variety of training documents.

National Science Foundation Boosts Science Education

Students all across the Front Range of Colorado are participating in exciting hands-on science investigations thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) totaling $1.4 million over three years. Dr. Michael De Miranda is in the Department of Manufacturing and Technology and Construction Management, a technology education specialist, is one of the participants in the grant which is a collaborative effort of Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), the CSU Natural Resource Ecology Lab, Weld County District 6, and the Poudre School District. The title of the project, GK-12, stands for graduate students working with K-12 schools. The primary investigations on the project are: Dr. David Swift, Natural Resource Ecology Lab, CSU, and Dr. John Moore from UNC.

"Researchers need to bring their expertise and enthusiasm out of the laboratory and into the classroom," said Dr. Swift. "The GK-12 program creates partnerships across the academic community that benefit research and education at every level."

Over a dozen graduate and undergraduate fellows work with K-12 teachers in Fort Collins, Greeley, and Loveland to link field research from CSU and UNC faculty to K-12 classrooms. K-12 students learn scientific and mathematical concepts and reasoning as they employ current technology in data collection and analysis. Students observe and measure experiments and perform mathematical modeling of natural processes. K-12 teachers find opportunities to participate in research with graduate fellows and university faculty to enhance their classroom instruction and professional development.

The breadth of projects and opportunities available to students is astounding. Students at Loveland High School undertook a Winter Ecology Project. Laurel Hartley, a GK-12 fellow describes the project: "Students used the Internet and textbooks to learn vocabulary and answer questions related to winter ecology. Guest speakers from GK-12, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory came to school to talk to the students. Groups of students were mentored by fellows as they designed their experiments. Projects included a study of the types and numbers of trees used by bears, a study of heat loss in different environments using baked potatoes as 'small mammals,' and a comparison of water quality of the Big Thompson River and Clear Creek."

For more information, see http://www.cahs.colostate.edu/gk12/