



## Message from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe but we are nearing the end of another semester. As you wind things down, I hope you will take time to rest and rejuvenate. It is a fact that rest is critical to staying healthy and happy. I know that you are not only scrambling to finish classes and grade major papers and evidences, you are also writing articles and grants, planning for spring projects, and conducting searches for new colleagues.

I have been hearing about these searches and am excited about who we might bring to campus. I also know it can be frustrating. Rarely do we get candidates who meet all the preferred criteria. Choices must be made. When you have to narrow it down, it can be very helpful to conduct phone interviews. It seems like a lot of work, but it could save you a lot of pain. It can be awful to endure two days with someone you know in the first hour will not get hired.

Also, look hard at those CVs. Some questions you may want to ask: Who did they study with? Is this someone that you know produces excellent scholars? Have they published? If so, where and what was their role in the writing? Have the candidates been on research teams that secured external funding? Have the candidates won any teaching awards? Done any teaching at all?

Finally, **Chairs of Search Committees:** Please remember that I want to be at every job talk for every candidate, so please work with Kathie early on in the process so she can get it scheduled. I will also interview each candidate for 45 minutes.

Thanks, and here's the news:

## COED Students Underscore their Commitment to Serve through “Book in a Bag” Project

This week, thirty COED students participated in a service learning project to support homeless children in the local Charlotte community. Through the project, called “Book in a Bag,” the students used their class time to decorate bags, which were then donated, along with multicultural children’s literature books, to children currently residing at [A Child’s Place](#). The project was funded through the Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Grant fund and organized by **Lakia Scott** and **Adriana Medina**.



*The mission of the College of Education at UNC Charlotte is to prepare highly effective and ethical professionals who have a positive impact on children, youth, families, community, and schools and who are successful in urban and other diverse settings. This mission is accomplished through teaching, research, and community engagement that lead to improved practice and by working in partnership with schools, communities, and university colleagues.*

## New Publications

**Kissel, B.,** Miller, E., & Hansen, J. (2013). What's new about Writers' Workshop: Using retro ideas to re-envision student led agendas. In K. Wood, J. Paratore, R. McCormack, & B. Kissel (Eds.) *What's new in literacy teaching? IRA E-ssentials series*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association.

**Kissel, B.,** Stover, K., **Wood, K.,** Heinstchel, K. (2013). Digital discussions. In K. Wood, J. Paratore, R. McCormack, & B. Kissel (Eds.) *What's new in literacy teaching? IRA E-ssentials series*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association.

**Kissel, B.** (2013). Authors as authorities: Pre-kindergarten writers find their audiences. In V. Vasquez & C. Felderman (Eds.) *Perspectives and provocations in early childhood education* (pp. 43-58). 2nd ed., Charlotte, NC: Infoage Publications.

McKissick, B. R., **Spooner, F., Wood, C. L.,** & Diegelmann, K. M. (2013). Effects of computer-assisted explicit instruction on map-reading skills for students with autism. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, 7*, 1653-1662.

**Rickelman, R.J.** (2013). Tapping into the Common Core: J. Estill Alexander Forum for ALER Leaders in Literacy address. In S. Szabo, L. Martin, T. Morrison, L. Haas, & L. Garza-Garcia (Eds.), Literacy is Transformative, Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Yearbook, Volume 35 (pp. 45-57). Louisville, KY: Association for Literacy Educators and Researchers.

Rivera, C. J., **Spooner, F., Wood, C. L.,** & Hicks, S. C. (2013). Multimedia shared stories for diverse learners with moderate intellectual disability. *Journal of Special Education Technology, 28*(4), 53-68.