



Message from the Dean

Dear Faculty,

Attached (http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/21/opinion/keller-an-industry-of-mediocrity.html?_r=0&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1382706584-HQPEFfd/YAiTNLXLUkeSxA) is a *New York Times* editorial published this week. I don't know about you, but I feel a little sick every time I read something like this -- which, sadly, is too often. I feel bad for two reasons. First, I recognize that we, as educators, have a responsibility to own any problems that exist in our programs and must continuously work to improve them. Second, it seems to me that so many who criticize our field know little to nothing about it. The author of this piece, for example, seems a bit uninformed.

For instance, the excellent Woodrow Wilson program he described is exactly what a lot of "traditional" preparation programs, including some of our programs, already do: a year-long student teaching experience while being coached by masters of the profession, partnerships with local schools, and postgraduate mentoring. Also, traditional universities hardly have a monopoly on teacher preparation. Many "upstarts" exist in every state and because they offer students an easier, cheaper, and faster way to get credentialed, these programs are quite successful in getting students enrolled.

On a related note, you know that the established field of teacher preparation *has* developed a new set of standards, and they include rigorous coursework, extensive time in schools, selectivity of students, and evidence of program impact. I believe we must get very familiar with our new CAEP standards and share them with the public every chance we get.

Finally, just a friendly reminder to send Latricia any announcements of new publications or personnel updates, so we can make sure this news is shared widely among our team.

And now, the news of the week:

Congratulations...

To **Dr. Pamela Shue** on her recent appointment to the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council.

New Publications

Popejoy, K., Good, A., Rock, T., Vintinner, J., Little, M.K., & Rodgers, E. (2013). Integrated Methods Block: Capitalizing upon existing PDS partnerships to strengthen elementary teacher preparation. *PDS Partners*, 9(2), 10-11.

Book Reviews

Welsh, Ryan C. (2013, October 16) [Review of the book *Slam School: Learning Through Conflict in a Hip-Hop and Spoken Word Classroom*, by B. Low] doi: 10.1177/0042085913492783
Ryan is a student of **Dr. Bettie Ray Butler** (MDSK).

Upcoming Events

November 14-15

Attachment Security Intervention
with

Caregivers,

[http://education.uncc.edu](http://education.uncc.edu/oao/caregivers)

/oao/caregivers, Faculty

Sponsor: Dr. Phyllis Post

The College of Education Connections is compiled and edited by Latricia Boone, Communications Director. Send all news to lboone10@uncc.edu

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.