Congratulations to:

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) Grant Recipients:

- Florence Martin, Patti Wilkins, and Michael Thomas: Exploring the use of learning analytics from Moodle to enhance student learning and engagement in online courses.
- Scott Kissau and Laura Hart: Following the Leader: A collaborative training model to develop and sustain best practices for teacher candidates.


Recipients of UNC Charlotte International Travel Grants: Bettie Ray Butler, Sandra Dika, Sejal Parikh Foxx, Lan Kolano, Michael Putman, Spencer Salas, Chuang Wang, and Greg Wiggan.

Misty Hathcock, who received a grant from Z Smith Reynolds to continue the First 3 Induction Program with beginning teachers.

Michael Matthews for receiving an award with his co-authors for their book Beyond Gifted Education: Designing and Implementing Advanced Academic Programs, which received the Legacy Book Award for Best Scholarly Book from the Texas Association for Gifted and Teaching.

Ya-yu Lo has been appointed as the Secretary on the Executive Board of DDEL, the Center for Exceptional Children’s Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners.

Drew Polly has been appointed as the Secretary on the Executive Board National Association of Professional Development Schools.

Doctoral Student Success:

Brad Stevenson, doctoral student in Special Education, has been selected to participate in a week-long workshop for doctoral students sponsored by the Higher Education Consortium in Special Education (HECSE). In January, he will attend the workshop to be conducted by Dr. Jane West, education specialist and advocate for HECSE and the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children. Later he will visit the offices of North Carolina legislators in Washington, DC, with Dr. Belva Collins and Dr. Fred Spooner from UNCC as part of the annual HECSE Summit meeting.

Jeremy Lopuch, doctoral student in Special Education, has received a mini-grant in the amount of $500 from the North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children (NC CEC) to assist in funding his dissertation: Using Early Literacy Curriculum-Based Measure (CBM) Diagnostic Feedback to Enhance Instructional Planning and Student Achievement for Students At-Risk and with Disabilities. He will be presented the award at the 2015 NC CEC conference and will present his work at the 2016 conference.
Adrienne Anderson (former SPED doctoral student) won the 2015 Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Division for Research (DR) Student Research Award in the single-subject design method category.

**In the News:**
In the most recent edition of the UNC Charlotte Magazine (http://issuu.com/unc_charlotte/docs/unc-charlotte-magazine-q1-2015?e=1264843/10814082) there are articles on Dr. David Test’s most recent special education grant (p. 18-19) and the International Conference on Urban Education (p. 22-23).

Susan Harden was mentioned in the Charlotte Observer for a project focused on arts-based learning associated with Prospect for Success (http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/12/05/5361888/charlotte-mecklenburg-schools.html#VLe9_nH4cB)

**STEM Conference:**
On January 5, the Center for STEM Education hosted their annual conference. There were over 220 attendees and 44 sessions focused on STEM teaching and learning.

**Dates and Deadlines:**
- January 16- College meeting, 9:30 a.m., COED 010
- January 30- Book talk, *How to Build a Better Teacher*, 2-3 p.m.
- February 9- edTPA Forum, 1-2:30 p.m., COED 110
- February 15- Deadline to present at the Teacher-to-Teacher conference
- March 3- Teacher-to-Teacher Conference
- April 1- Deadline to apply for international travel grants

**Service Project**
MDSK and REEL students in Dr. Adriana L. Medina’s Fall 2014 READ 6204 – Teaching Reading to English Language Learners course participated in a service project as part of a Chancellor’s Diversity Grant. Students chose multicultural books, decorated canvas bags to match the books, and donated the multicultural books in a bag to International House for use in their educational department as they work with immigrant and refugee families during ESL Saturday Story time.

**Recent Publications:**

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.
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“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” William Butler Yeats

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