



## **2009 SPRING RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

# ***RESEARCH TO PRACTICE THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTITIONERS***

Friday, April 24, 2009

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Frank Porter Graham Student Union Building

Multi-Purpose Room

and Meeting Rooms 3201, 3202, 3206a, 3206b

This year's Research Symposium seeks to bring together undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and other professionals from across disciplines and educational program areas to identify intersections between practice and research. The focus for the 2009 Symposium is an in-depth look at research projects that are exemplary models of working with local communities and schools.

The projects include:

- FirstSchool – promoting public school efforts to become responsive to the changing school population
- Durham Freedom School, a school enrichment program for grades three through nine
- Research Triangle Schools Project, collaboration between the School of Education and local school districts to meet the needs of school communities
- School Success Profile, promoting academic performance and closing the achievement gap through planned interventions.

During the morning general session, a facilitated panel of faculty, investigators, practitioners, and students from Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center, the School of Education, and the School of Social Work will describe their projects.

The panelists will discuss the purpose and progress of their projects and answer questions posed by the Symposium Committee and the audience. The panel will be followed by four concurrent workshops presented by each of the four projects, a lunch break, and a second round of concurrent workshops by the projects. These workshops will give attendees opportunities to explore ideas with faculty, investigators, and other students as project participants present their work in more depth.

The afternoon general session will feature an address by Dr. G. Williamson McDiarmid, the new dean of the School of Education.

The Symposium will also feature exhibit tables from local educational resources such as LEARN-NC, Center for School Leadership Development (CSLD), and Odum Institute.

The four University of North Carolina/School-Community Partnerships being featured are:

#### **FIRSTSCHOOL**

FirstSchool is a pre-K–grade 3 initiative led by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center and the UNC-CH School of Education. The purpose of FirstSchool is to promote public school efforts to become more responsive to the needs of an increasingly younger, more diverse population. FirstSchool is a systems-based change process involving state, district, community, school, and classroom policies and practice. To create a seamless transition for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade, schools need to unite the best of early childhood, elementary and special education.

<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~firstschool/>

#### **FREEDOM SCHOOLS**

The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) develops freedom school programs nationwide to provide critical summer and after-school enrichment. The Durham Freedom School summer program at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) provided an opportunity for 60 young people, grades three through nine, from the Durham Public Schools to experience culturally relevant reading, community action and learning in a supportive and academically stimulating environment. The five-week program sought to assist the local schools by giving the students a thirst for learning that would continue throughout the following academic year. This past summer, the Durham Freedom School was sponsored by the NCCU Hip Hop Initiative, a program that aims to transform NCCU into an academic stronghold for the study of the culture and history of hip-hop music. The Southern Freedom School Movement of the 1960s was the focus of the Durham Freedom School Director’s dissertation research.

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/helping-americas-children/cdf-freedom-schools-program/>

#### **RESEARCH TRIANGLE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**

The Research Triangle Schools Partnership (RTSP) is a collaborative initiative bringing together interdisciplinary faculty in the School of Education who are interested in partnerships with local school districts and communities. RTSP seeks to enhance student learning and family support, pre-service teacher education, in-service teacher professional development and doctoral training. School and community partners in Durham and Orange Counties identify needs in the school community that also represent areas of interest and expertise for faculty members in the School of Education. RTSP also includes a Service Learning Component to provide systemic change to enhance student learning, pre-service teacher education, in-service teacher professional development and doctoral training. The partnership provides an integrated model in pre-K-12 school contexts that is beneficial to all partners and that allows for exploring teaching and learning across a continuum.

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/ed/rtsp/>

### **SCHOOL SUCCESS PROFILE**

The School Success Profile (SSP), the Elementary School Success Profile (ESSP), and Learning Organization (LO), developed by researchers at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, are powerful and comprehensive assessment tools for promoting academic performance and closing the achievement gap. Both the SSP and the ESSP student profiles were specifically designed for school-aged children from third grade through twelfth grade, with the ESSP intended for children in third through fifth grade, and the SSP intended for children in sixth through twelfth grade. These tools provide results that directly relate to recognized threats to academic success, and that facilitate intervention planning through a database of best practices, resources for intervention decision-making, and tools for measuring the success of interventions.

<http://www.schoolsuccessonline.com/ESSP.asp>

#### **Symposium Schedule:**

\*Research to Practice through Engagement with the Community of Practitioners\*

Opening General Session – Frank Porter Graham Union Multipurpose Room

9-11:00 am

-Greetings

-Opening remarks

-Panel (Research Triangle Schools Project, First School, Freedom Schools, School Success Profile)

-Project descriptions and discussion of panel guiding questions

Workshops – Graham Union 3rd floor meeting rooms

11:00-12:00 First Breakout Session

12:00-1:00 Break for Lunch

1:00-2:00 Second Breakout Session

Closing General Session – Graham Union Multipurpose Room

2-2:30 pm

SOE Dean McDiarmid remarks

Closing remarks from committee and GSA President

**2009 Symposium Committee Members:**

*Beth Bader*, Co-Chair. Culture, Curriculum, and Change

*Mary Bratsch*, Co-Chair. Early Childhood, Intervention, and Literacy

*Lee Adcock*. Culture, Curriculum, and Change

*Corliss Brown*. Culture, Curriculum, and Change

*Alexandra Earl*. Elementary Education

*Cary Gillenwater*. Culture, Curriculum, and Change

*Jeremy Hilburn*. Culture, Curriculum, and Change

*Betsy Humphries*. Early Childhood, Intervention, and Literacy

*Trisha Klein*. Master of Arts in Teaching

*Yanjun Liu*. Culture, Curriculum, and Change

*Candace Phillips*. Master of Education for Experienced Teachers

*Darlene Ryan*. Educational Leadership

*Ike Smith*. Master of Arts in Teaching

*Kathryn Van Dyke*. Elementary Education

*Steve Wall*. Culture, Curriculum, and Change