Welcome to our “Fifth Anniversary” Newsletter! As you may know, teacher certification at Tulane University received state approval for its Early Childhood, Secondary and Dance programs in August of 2005. Thirteen days later, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the university closed for one semester. Our 15 potentially interested teacher candidates dropped to 3 completers. Some of the students who had started with the education courses in 2004 and spring 2005 returned. Most did not. The staff was in the position of rebuilding a fledgling program in an extremely difficult environment.

The past five years have seen more than our emotional and physical recovery from Hurricane Katrina and subsequent levee breaks that devastated our homes and lives. We have been riding the roller coaster of the economic downturn and its effects on the university. Meanwhile, our program has grown beyond our expectations! With our access database we can track the enrollment and diversity of the students, giving us better and faster access to the course and program projections.

Assessment System Guiding Our Programs

The past five years have seen many new documents designed, revisions to the program’s supporting documents and an increase in program alignment. We have created assessments that span all of the courses and the programs; written and updated three Handbooks; created a Scope and Sequence matrix that ensures we are addressing all of the necessary learning components for the teacher candidates; and redesigned all syllabi to meet the SACS requirements for the university. Program forms for students have been designed and are used to track student data in our new Access database. Our electronic portfolio system, TaskStream, is now aligned with state standards and is used by all TPCP students and faculty to assess progress through the program.

Collaboration with School and Community Partners

We have expanded global student teaching into our options for the teacher candidates, offering them the opportunity to travel and enhance their teaching repertoire on a more global perspective. We have developed a more diverse and active Advisory Council to include members from across the university departments and programs, the regional school boards, and non-profit organizations, to parents, faculty and program students, teacher candidates, and completers.

A source of great pride to our faculty and staff is our collaboration across a variety of PreK-12 schools and school systems in the metropolitan area. We serve on the Board of Directors for Charter schools, have assisted schools and districts as a Reading First External Support member, are assessors for the state’s assessment system for new teachers and collaborate with private, parochial and public schools for student teacher placements. Our staff and faculty have assisted schools with their professional development by offering workshops in differentiation, classroom management, strategic planning, data-based decision-making, situational leadership, the change process and authentic assessments.

Preparing for National Accreditation (TEAC)

Now, as we embrace our five year anniversary, we also face another small hill to climb. We have spent the past three years preparing for national accreditation through TEAC (Teacher Educators Accreditation Council). Tulane’s TPCP was the leading force behind state policy change to integrate TEAC into the state of Louisiana, offering university programs another option for national accreditation. Tulane will be the first teacher education program in Louisiana to attain accreditation through TEAC’s strong internal audit process. The students, staff and faculty have worked hard for this recognition and we continue our preparation for the site visit scheduled to occur from November 1-3, 2010.

By: Linda McKee
TPCP Director
Preparing for National Accreditation Team

At the beginning of September, the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) sent TPCP the official notice that we are ready for the site visit of the external evaluators on November 1-3, 2010. This is the result of almost three years of concentrated effort on the parts of TPCP faculty & staff, students, and our Advisory Council.

The members of the site visit team will be sent a copy of our Inquiry Brief, a focused document that outlines exactly what we claim about the professional skills of Tulane teachers and provides a wide variety of evidence that support those claims. We began working on this brief a year ago, sent the first draft to TEAC in May, and over the summer, made several revisions based on the feedback we received from the TEAC staff. During their visit, the external auditors will review the evidence summarized in the brief, and interview students, faculty, administrators and various PK-12 partners. The results from this on-site verification of the Inquiry Brief will become part of the final considerations of Tulane’s request for national certification of the TPCP by TEAC. The final consideration of our accreditation request will occur in February of 2011.

All interested parties may review the Inquiry Brief (available at http://teacher.tulane.edu) and respond to TEAC’s call for comments if they wish. In addition, TEAC will send out an electronic survey to selected TPCP students, TPCP alumni, PK -12 partners and university faculty and staff. If you receive one of these email TEAC surveys, please respond in a timely manner.

The faculty and staff of Tulane’s TPCP wish to thank all of the TPCP students, alumni, PK-12 partners, and university faculty and staff who have assisted us in this process.

By: Deborah Fordham
TPCP Assessment Coordinator

Social Entrepreneurs in Education:
Students, Faculty Members and the Community
Working Together to Improve Education

This semester students in Education in a Diverse Society (EDLA 2000) are having the unique opportunity to develop innovative ways to improve education. Working with a public service fellow, Laura White, students and professors are identifying educational problems and innovative ways to address them. With her background in social innovation work with Ashoka and the TU Changemakers program, Laura is working with Professor Whelan and her students to bring an awareness and knowledge of how we can all become “social innovators”. Laura White is a junior Political Economy major, as well as a Teacher Certification candidate. Prior to coming to Tulane, and in response to high drowning rates and few after-school opportunities for at-risk youth in her community, Laura started a nonprofit (now called Swim 4 Success) that provides free swimming lessons to low-income kids. The program has been expanded to Tulane. Now, Laura works with the TU-changemakers program to bring social innovation and social entrepreneurship programming to campus. Laura also co-initiated the Changemaker Education Collaborative, which aims to help catalyze each person’s capacity for creating social change through unique learning methods and tools.

The Tulane teacher certification students, through their public service assignments in the local schools, are in a unique position to experience and become social entrepreneurs. A social entrepreneur recognizes a social problem, such as educational disparities, and identifies creative and innovative approaches to address the problem. One example of a student who demonstrated this was a public service fellow for the past three years, Kirsten Hill. Kirsten worked with the For the Children Program at Banneker Elementary School while taking the Education in a Diverse Society class. The next semester, she expanded her work to develop a reading program at Lafayette Charter School. She is now a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. Her model, the Lafayette Reading Room has recently been adopted by the Roosevelt Institute as a national model and will be used by other universities to start similar programs.

On October 12th Earl Phalen, a leading social innovator and one of the NewDay Social Entrepreneurship Distinguished Speakers Series will meet with the Education in a Diverse Society classes. He is the CEO of Reach Out and Read and Founder of Summer Advantage, USA. He will share his own experiences, challenges, insights, thoughts, and recommendations to students and the community. The Office of Social Entrepreneurship at Tulane provides the speaker series. It is a great opportunity to meet and engage with some of the most remarkable people working in the area of social entrepreneurship today. He will also be speaking at 5 P.M. Freeman Auditorium, Woldenberg Art Center.

Additional information about Tulane’s social entrepreneurship initiatives can be found on the Tulane website at http://tulane.edu/socialentrepreneurship/index.cfm “We are all enjoying learning about social innovation in education through a collaborative and engaged learning in Education in a Diverse Society”.

By: Carol Whelan and Laura White
TPCP Faculty TPCP Candidate

TPCP candidate Laura White and Banneker Principal Cherallynn Branche
Secondary Certification Students Assist in Implementation of Louisiana’s Adolescent Literacy Plan

The Louisiana State Department of Education initiated an intensive literacy plan for adolescents in the spring of 2010 as a means of articulating the need for intensive literacy support for adolescent learners throughout their curriculum.

The Louisiana Adolescent Literacy Plan encompasses five basic components: Leadership and Sustainability, Standards-Based Curriculum, Assessment System, Instruction and Intervention (RTI) and Professional Learning and Resources. As our secondary Reading Methods students begin their field Practicum work this semester we are emphasizing their ability to assist in their school assignments in the RTI. With the forty hour practicum commitment each practicum student has the opportunity of working within the classroom situation with a qualified professional teacher in their content field. Additionally they will be working collaboratively with their teacher and teacher teams in the schools to develop effective interventions for adolescents having learning issues in any language area affecting learning in specific content areas. The practicum students will then participate in implementing the intervention which had been developed for individual students by their middle and/or high school teachers.

As we work partnering with varied schools throughout the area, the TPCP attempts to create a collaborative partnership between our program and the schools that allow us to work in them. We feel that our ability to assist teachers and students helps provide a positive and valued learning experience for both our students and the K-12 schools. This type of strategic intervention work in the schools assists our certification students in becoming trained in the needed school-based practices that will assist them in their future teaching careers.

By: Margaret Dermody
TPCP Faculty

TPCP Candidate Enrollment and Service Learning Hours over the last 5 years!

TPCP reading buddy

TPCP candidate teaches healthy eating lesson to students at Banneker

TPCP candidate reviews lesson at Lusher Elementary

TeacherWave
Helping Create a New Wave of Knowledge
Teacher Preparation and Certification Program offers:
Certification in Early Childhood Education (PK-3), Secondary (6-12) and Dance (K-12)

Classes one day per week
All education classes offered in the evening on uptown campus
Field experience in public schools
Reduced tuition through School of Continuing Studies (for post-graduate candidates)
Special discounts for Louisiana educators & city of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish employees

2010 Fall Event Calendar

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<td>Advisory Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-3(Mon-Wed)</td>
<td>TEAC site visit</td>
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<td>1(Monday)</td>
<td>TEAC Reception Cudd Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1(Wed)</td>
<td>Informational Webinar</td>
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Technology & Software Tips

Drop the Chalk
Customizable solutions for student classroom data.
For more information please visit:
www.dropthechalk.org

Math Live!
The Math Live! Was developed by the staff/contractors from Alberta Education and consultants/teachers from Edomonton Catholic Schools.
For more information please visit
http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/me5l/html/math5.html

Sheppard Software
Offers hundreds of educational games, activities quizzes, articles and more for Teachers to use for free.
For more information please visit
http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/

Thanks for Your Support:

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