
Center for Teaching and Learning
THE STATE OF THE CENTER
for Academic Year 2016-2017 (AY2016)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- ◆ The CTL's Professional Development (PD) program is the primary vehicle for connecting MDECOE faculty and their expertise with teachers and administrators throughout our southern California service area. Since 2013, the CTL has worked with 40 schools and organizations that represent the diversity of area schools, including non-public schools, charter schools, private schools, faith-based schools, non-profit organizations, and Los Angeles Unified School District Public Schools. This represents hundreds of teachers and thousands of students being supported through our work.
- ◆ Consultants delivering PD and mentoring sessions are predominantly MDECOE faculty members, thus increasing MDECOE's and CSUN's reputation and visibility with local schools and districts.
- ◆ Schools partner with the CTL for a 3-year term that includes ongoing PD and mentoring/coaching to help ensure that the PD sessions are tailored to each school's needs.
- ◆ The following six schools were CTL Partner Contract Schools for AY2016:
 - Birmingham Community Charter High School (in Van Nuys),
 - Haddon Avenue Elementary School (in Arleta),
 - Haskell Elementary School (in Granada Hills),
 - Primary Academy for Success School (in Panorama City),
 - Stonehurst Avenue Elementary School (in Sun Valley), and
 - Sunland Elementary School (in Sunland).
- ◆ In 2013, the CTL expanded its PD program to include a Speakers Bureau program, which allows schools to benefit from CTL's PD programs without entering into a contract and becoming a partner school. This has been an attractive option for schools who are unable to make a 3-year financial commitment or who have short-term PD needs. In addition, schools that do have contracts with CTL have made use of the Speakers Bureau to add additional PD and/or mentoring sessions to their ongoing contract.
- ◆ The following seven schools utilized CTL's Speakers Bureau in AY2016:
 - Carpenter Community Charter School (in Studio City),
 - Colfax Charter Elementary School (in Valley Village),
 - Dixie Canyon Community Charter School (in Sherman Oaks),
 - Encino Charter Elementary School (in Encino),
 - LAUSD Early Education Program (in Los Angeles),
 - Madera County Schools (in Northern California), and
 - The Village at Northridge (retirement community in Northridge).

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MDECOE

- ◆ In May 2015, the CTL began two new programs focused on writing to facilitate the professional development of faculty, staff, and graduate students at the MDECOE.
- ◆ First, the CTL is hosting an ongoing Writing and Publishing Support Group. The group is led by Dr. Wendy Murawski and is intended to be a space for faculty members to come together to motivate each other to write, to learn successful writing and publishing strategies, and to share advice on how and where to publish.
- ◆ The second program is an APA Help and Support Clinic. This program is run by Dr. Kathy Scott and provides APA formatting and basic line editing for manuscripts, dissertations, and reference lists. Services are available to all MDECOE faculty, staff, and doctoral students. Since Fall 2015, it has supported over 20 projects, totaling 1,199 pages.
- ◆ Both the Writing and Publishing Support Group and the APA Help and Support Clinic were created in order to provide support to MDECOE faculty members sharing their educational expertise nationally through publications.

EDUCATION ON THE EDGE SPEAKER SERIES

- ◆ The CTL completed its fourth year of the Education on the Edge speaker series. The series was begun to host nationally-recognized scholars to speak to the CSUN and local community on topics on the cutting-edge of education. The goal of the speaker series is to educate the community, while providing a forum for discussion and analysis of current, cutting-edge educational issues. The series is now co-funded by the Provost's Office and by the MDECOE Dean's Office.
- ◆ The CTL hosted **Dr. Temple Grandin** from Colorado State University who delivered a lecture titled "Different Kinds of Minds Contribute to Society" on February 6, 2017. Nearly seven hundred CSUN and community members attended this presentation about autism.
- ◆ The CTL hosted **Dr. Scott Sampson**, the host of the PBS show *Dinosaur Train*, who delivered a presentation titled "How to Raise a Wild Child" on April 3, 2017. Over three hundred CSUN and community members attended this presentation about nature education.
- ◆ **Dr. Scott Sampson** also provided a presentation on "Dinosaurs of the Lost Continent" for around three hundred middle school students at Vaughn Next Century Learning Center. The afternoon presentation was attended by 7th graders from Vaughn and from CHIME Charter Middle School.

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RESEARCH

- ◆ The CTL is currently conducting a multi-state research study (AZ, CA, GA, OH) on co-teaching to study student outcomes. This year focused on training and data collection. Title: *The Impact of Fidelity to Co-Teaching on Student Academic and Behavioral Outcomes*.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski submitted proposals to the Teacher Education Division (TED) and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) conferences to present on the study's design, collaboration, and preliminary findings. Both were accepted for presentations in 2017.
- ◆ The CTL funded travel for Dr. Lissa Stapleton to present on her research award.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- ◆ The CTL officially opened the “**CTL Digital Room**” to support faculty in conducting on-line, virtual, and synchronous meetings and presentations. The Digital Room can be signed out by College of Education faculty and has been used for small committee meetings, doctoral presentations, Skype and Zoom meetings, and online research. The CTL funded the new computer, tables, chairs, and technology set-up. In addition, Dr. Wendy Murawski consulted Dr. Will Garrow in Deaf Studies to ensure the room was accessible and appropriate for sign language users. A blue curtain was hung to enable easier visibility of those using sign language.
- ◆ The CTL is collaborating with **Dr. Rachel Friedman Narr and Gallaudet University** to proctor the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) for CSUN Deaf Studies students. A CTL student assistant who is adept at sign language monitors and proctors the exam in the new Digital Room.
- ◆ The CTL hosted a **Better Together NGSS event** at CHIME Institute called: *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): Preparing Students for 21st Century Citizenship and Careers* on May 10, 2017. Approximately seventy-five local teachers attended. This was done in collaboration with the California Better Together program.

WHAT REALLY WORKS IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

- ◆ The CTL held its third biennial ***What Really Works in Education*** Conference on February 7, 2017: an all-day conference held on campus co-sponsored by the University Student Union. The theme of the conference was exceptional learners.
- ◆ Over 150 participants attended, including CSUN students and faculty and teachers and administrators from local schools. With their registration, all attendees received a copy of *What Really Works With Exceptional Learners* (Murawski & Scott, 2017).
- ◆ The keynote speeches were delivered by **Mr. Daniel Jocz**, the 2016 California Teacher of the Year, and **Ms. Erica Rood**, the recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

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- ◆ A panel presentation featured exceptional learners from an international view with presenters representing **England, Denmark, Malawi, China, Bolivia, and Guatemala**.
- ◆ There were 39 breakout sessions presented by What Really Works in Education chapter authors and other invited speakers. Twelve MDECOE faculty members and five MDECOE students presented sessions at the conference.
- ◆ A videographer was hired to do a “**Mannequin Challenge**” to be used to highlight the conference and the College of Education. The video was uploaded to the CTL website and the College of Education website.

CTL PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ A third book in the *What Really Works in Education* book series was published by Corwin Press in February 2017. It was co-edited by Dr. Wendy Murawski and Dr. Kathy Lynn Scott and is titled, ***What Really Works With Exceptional Learners***. Proceeds from the book go to the CTL.
- ◆ The “What Really Works In Elementary Education” book (Murawski & Scott, 2015) was translated into French. The book is titled “**Les Meilleures Pratiques Pédagogiques Au Primaire**” and is published through Chenelière Éducation in collaboration with Corwin Press.
- ◆ “Teachers Connecting to Advance Retention and Empowerment” (**TCARE**) is a national newsletter created to offer practical strategies on teaching and self-care to new teachers. Since 2015, four volumes have been published, with a nationwide circulation of 5,000 hard copy and thousands more electronically. There has been a high representation of MDECOE faculty members writing contributions, thus bringing MDECOE expertise to a national audience.
- ◆ “**CTL on the Cutting Edge**” is a 1-page bulletin highlighting MDECOE faculty research. Since 2016, eight volumes have been published, with a collegewide and local circulation of over 300. Topics have been mindfulness, the responsive teaching cycle, and Latina/o college access and opportunity, preparing STEM educators, inclusive education, and intrinsic motivation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski was awarded **CSUN’s 2016 Outstanding Faculty Award** for her work with the CTL and the MDECOE.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski was invited to serve as part of a **US-China Think Tank Symposium** in Beijing, China in 2016. She also presented on creativity in the classroom.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski is serving on the advisory board for Dr. Ivan Cheng’s i3 CREATE grant.
- ◆ Dr. Kathy Scott represented the CTL by volunteering at **MDECOE events** throughout the year: the MDECOE Welcome Back Event, the MDECOE Alumni Mixer, the MDECOE Scholarship Luncheon, the MDECOE holiday celebration, and the 2016 California Teachers Summit.

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- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented the CTL and MDECOE as the **keynote presenter** at the **California Inclusion Collaborative Conference** in San Jose [CA] in October 2016.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented the CTL and MDECOE by conducting peer-reviewed **conference presentations** for the Association for California School Administrators (ACSA) in Anaheim [CA], the Teacher Education Division (TED) of the Council for Exceptional Children in Lexington [KY], Council for Exceptional Children National Conference in Boston [MA], and the SSTR1 Ohio Special Education Summit in Bowling Green [OH]. She also presented at the CSUN CTL What Really Works Conference.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented the CTL and MDECOE **nationally** through presentations, guest lectures, training, professional development, and webinars for the following: New Jersey Supervisors and Administrators Council [NJ], Trinity International University [IL], Sedona/Oak Creek [AZ], and Phoenix Union High School District [AZ].
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented the CTL and MDECOE **statewide** through presentations, training, professional development, and webinars for the following: Western Placer Unified School District, Burbank Unified School District, Los Altos Unified School District, Chino Valley Unified School District, Santa Barbara Unified School District, Sequoia Union High School District, Pleasanton Unified School District, Newark Unified School District, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, San Diego SELPA, East San Gabriel Valley SELPA, Palm Springs Unified School District; and extensive presentations throughout southern California (including Antelope Valley, Paramount Unified School District, Magnolia Science Academy, and Birmingham High School).
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented the CTL and MDECOE by delivering presentations **locally** at Mission College, Azusa Pacific University, and the LAUSD New Teachers Summit, as well as co-presenting sessions on co-teaching and early childhood programs with **Dr. Carrie Rothstein-Fisch** for LAUSD's Early Childhood Division.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski collaborated with **Granada Hills Charter High School** to obtain a **\$200,000 grant** to support a year-long workshop series on co-teaching for Granada Hills Charter High School and local high school teachers.
- ◆ Dr. Murawski served as a guest lecturer in classes in special education for **Dr. Zhen Chai** and mathematics education for **Dr. Cat Gaspard**. She also delivered a presentation on campus about creativity to the Chinese delegation from the **China Institute** and participated in a collegewide panel about academic publishing for the **Equity and Faculty Affairs Committee**.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski served on the national Council for Exceptional Children mentoring committee.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski chaired Soraya Fallah's dissertation for the ELPS department.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski participated as the Chair of the College Personnel Committee, a member of Administrative Council, and a member of the MDECOE's Research Advisory Committee.

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CTL STAFF

◆ The CTL includes:

- Dr. Wendy Murawski, Executive Director and Eisner Endowed Chair,
- Dr. Kathy Lynn Scott, Center Administrative Analyst,
- Mr. Steve Holle, Professional Development Coordinator, and
- Four student assistants: Jessica Bandarizadeh, Soraya Fallah, Dani Lavoie, and Josh Mandell. They represent different undergraduate and graduate programs [Deaf Studies, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies doctoral program, English, Kinesiology, and Marriage and Family Therapy master's program] and languages [American Sign Language, Danish, Farsi, and Kurdish], and they assist the CTL in communicating and responding to student needs.