
Center for Teaching and Learning
THE STATE OF THE CENTER
for Academic Year 2015-2016 (AY2015)

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 32 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 (12 out of 16), 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 seven schools were CTL Partner Contract Schools for AY2015:
 - Haddon Avenue Elementary School (in Arleta),
 - Haskell Elementary School (in Granada Hills),
 - Our Community School (in Chatsworth),
 - Pacoima Charter School (in Pacoima),
 - Stonehurst Avenue Elementary School (in Sun Valley)
 - Victory Boulevard Elementary School (in North Hollywood), and
 - Westmark School (in Encino).
- ◆ 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 six schools utilized CTL's Speakers Bureau in AY2015:
 - AGBU Manoogian Demirdjian School (in Canoga Park),
 - Madera County Schools (in Northern California),
 - Pacoima Charter School (in Pacoima, Speakers Bureau plus contract),
 - Vaughn Next Century Learning Center (in San Fernando)
 - Yeshiva Aharon Yaakov-Ohr Eliyahu (in Los Angeles)
 - The Village at Northridge (retirement community in Northridge).

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

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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 James 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 13 projects, totaling 539 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.
- ◆ The CTL hosted the CSUN Pride Center to present “LGBTQ from A to Z: LGBTZ Ally Training” on March 30, 2016, with 17 MDECOE faculty and staff members attending.
- ◆ The CTL hosted American Sign Language Classes, taught by faculty from the Deaf Studies Department. Since Fall 2015, 40 classes were held and 40 MDECOE faculty, staff, and students attended.
- ◆ The CTL co-sponsored the “Social Justice: By, For, Of People” conference hosted by the Deaf Studies Association and Deaf Studies Department on October 30, 2015.
- ◆ The CTL brought in creativity expert Jon Pearson to deliver the workshop “Drawing Out the Best in Common Core” on November 16, 2015. Forty attendees from CSUN and the community attended.

EDUCATION ON THE EDGE SPEAKER SERIES

- ◆ The CTL completed its third year of the Education on the Edge speaker series, supported by Provost Hellenbrand. 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 co-funded by the Provost’s Office and by the MDECOE Dean’s Office.
- ◆ The CTL hosted **Karen Cator** of Digital Promise, speaking on “Closing the Digital Learning Gap” on October 13, 2015, 2014. Nearly two hundred CSUN and community members attended this presentation about technology and learning.
- ◆ The CTL hosted **Dr. Candace Thille** from Stanford University, who delivered a presentation titled “Technology, Big Data, and Student Learning Needs: Transforming Education” on February 18, 2016. Over two hundred CSUN and community members attended this presentation about big data, the learning sciences, and the Open Learning Initiative.
- ◆ The CTL hosted **Dr. Tina Payne Bryson** speaking on “The Whole-Brain Child in the Classroom” on April 5, 2016. Nearly six hundred CSUN and community members attended this presentation that presented practical strategies based on brain science.

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RESEARCH

- ◆ The CTL is conducting a multi-state research study (AZ, CA, GA, OH, TX, VA, WV, WY) on co-teaching to study student outcomes. Title: *The Impact of Fidelity to Co-Teaching on Student Academic and Behavioral Outcomes*.
- ◆ The CTL provided CTL Research Awards to faculty in each department at MDECOE, as well as one collaborative award. Research is being conducted on: Comparative Education between China and the U.S., mobile screening for autism, professional development schools, interpreters of color, black graduate student retention, co-teaching, and STEM teacher education. These awards support MDECOE faculty research with additional support available for presentations and publications to assist MDECOE faculty in disseminating their research both locally and nationally.

GRANTS AND PROJECTS

- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski was director of the Linked Learning Sub-Award (\$50,000) and is Co-PI for the CSUN portion of the California Careers Partnership Trust grant (\$650,000), partnering MDECOE's CTL with the College of Engineering and Computer Science and the College of Arts, Media, and Communication. Through this grant, the CTL provided Linked Learning professional development to 60 teachers, counselors, and administrators from the Partnership Trust's partner schools at Glendale Unified School District and Burbank Unified School District. The sub-award also provided funding to support two Ed.D. students' research on linked learning.

CTL PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ A new contract with Corwin has been signed for a third book in the *What Really Works in Education* book series. Co-edited by Dr. Wendy Murawski and Dr. Kathy Lynn James, *What Really Works With Exceptional Learners* is expected to be published in February 2017.
- ◆ "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, two volumes have been published, with a nationwide circulation of over 5,000 hard copy and thousands more electronically. There has been a high representation of MDECOE faculty members writing contributions, with 6 of 15 authors from CSUN, thus bringing MDECOE expertise to a national audience.
- ◆ "CTL on the Cutting Edge" is a 1-page bulletin highlighting MDECOE faculty research. Since 2016, three 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.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski was awarded **CSUN's 2016 Outstanding Faculty Award** for extraordinary performance in teaching, service, and research.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski is serving on the advisory board for Dr. Ivan Cheng's i3 CREATE grant.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented CTL and MDECOE as the **Past-President** of the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented the CTL and MDECOE as the **keynote presenter** at Bowling Green State University (OH).
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented the CTL and MDECOE at **conference presentations** for the Every Child Counts symposium (in Monterey, CA), Teacher Education Division (in Tempe, AZ), and at the Council for Exceptional Children conference (in St Louis, MO).
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski represented the CTL and MDECOE nationally through presentations, training, professional development, and webinars for the following: Higley Unified School District in Gilbert [AZ], Jefferson County teachers in Shepherdstown [WV], Millersville University [PA], Florence Unified School district [AZ], Sweetwater School District [WY], Houston ESC4 [TX], and extensive presentations throughout California (including Beverly Hills, Compton, Pasadena, Vaughn, Western Placer, Burbank, Norwalk-LaMirada, Pleasanton, Santa Barbara, Pacoima, San Pedro, the Ventura County SELPA, CHIME, and Oxnard).
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski was a **guest speaker** for CSUN faculty (Secondary Education CT501), as well as for California State Los Angeles (CSU-LA) faculty in Special Education and for a class in Millersville University [PA].
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski did sessions on developing creativity in the classroom for visiting scholars participating in the **China Institute** on campus.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski served as the emcee for the **Better Together** conference on campus and the CTL helped host the event with Dr. Kathy Scott helping organize and all student assistants working the event.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski also wrote a contribution to MDECOE's *InnovatED Journal* and e-newsletter. Mr. Steve Holle also wrote contributions.
- ◆ Dr. Wendy Murawski participated as Chair of the College Personnel Committee and as a member of the college's Administrative Council and the college's Research Advisory Council.

CTL STAFF

- ◆ The CTL includes:
 - Dr. Wendy Murawski, Executive Director and Eisner Endowed Chair,
 - Dr. Kathy Lynn James, Center Administrative Analyst,
 - Mr. Steve Holle, Professional Development Coordinator, and
 - Four student assistants: Samantha Garley, Dani Lavoie, Josh Mandell, and Timothy Nang. They represent different majors and minors [Deaf Studies, Humanities, Queer Studies, Education, English, and Kinesiology] and languages [American Sign Language and Khmer], and they assist the CTL in communicating and responding to student needs.