COE Dean’s Report

Submitted by: Pete Kelly

September 21, 2020

1. **COE Partnership work**: Faculty and staff in the COE continue to develop ways we and our students can assist with teaching and learning in our partner schools. Jennifer Walker is working to facilitate professional development for building level special education leadership in the Stafford County Public Schools. Kristina Peck, April Brecht, and Jane Huffman are continuing the Teacher for Tomorrow collaborations we have in our area schools. The grant funded Pathways to Excellence program directed by Courtney Clayton, Debra Hydorn, and Kristina Peck provides mentorship training for 30 teachers in our area schools and is one more example of COE work in collaboration with partner schools. We are coordinating with the Center for Engagement to develop ways we can support Learning Pods under development by the Fredericksburg City Schools.

There are 457 COE students completing virtual practicum experiences in a variety of settings. Two sections of Math 204 students will serve as virtual tutors for students at Parkside Elementary. Students from two literacy courses will be virtual tutors at Ferry Farm Elementary. COE students in two other practicum bearing courses will serve as tutors and provide enrichment learning experiences at Drew Middle School. In addition, there are 85 COE students completing internships across five school divisions in the region. Most are completing virtual internships working with mentor teachers in their classrooms. Three interns are currently teaching hybrid/face to face classes in the Louisa County Public Schools. The Spotsylvania County Public Schools will switch to hybrid/face to face instruction beginning October 15, and approximately 40 COE interns will be involved.

1. **Dr. Jennifer Walker** was awarded a $18,986.00 grant from VDOE titled, "Supporting Provisionally Licensed Special Educators with Structured Advising and Online Professional Learning Communities." Grant resources will allow Dr. Walker to support professional development for provisionally licensed special educators in the area.
2. **Dr. Courtney Clayton**, **Dr. Debra Hydorn** (Mathematics), and **Mrs. Kristina Peck** applied for a $38,219 Virginia Department of Education Competitive Grant for Clinical Faculty Programs for the fifth consecutive year. This grant, if awarded, will fund the COE's Pathways to Excellence program, which provides professional development to 30 local teachers in data-based decision making, culturally relevant pedagogy, and mentoring skills to become Clinical Faculty. This project has been funded for five consecutive years.
3. **Fall COE Speaker Series**: Kristina Peck, the COE Director of Clinical Practice and Partnerships, has developed a Fall COE Speaker Series to engage COE students in collaborative professional development with COE alumni and educational leaders in the region. The first virtual event on September 14 featured Alexis White, a UMW Alumnus and Principal of Garrisonville Elementary School, who spoke about the importance of relationship building with students. 56 students participated in the event. There are 10 guest speakers lined up for the COE Speaker Series for this fall semester.