

College of Education

COE Dean’s Report

University Faculty Council

Submitted by: Pete Kelly

September 20, 2021

1. Partnerships: Our ability to prepare students to be effective teachers in this increasingly complex profession is contingent upon close working relationships with our K-12 colleagues. We have 82 students completing year-long internships and action research in four different school divisions in the region, and we have 232 students completing a variety of practicum experiences in six school divisions. Our success in teacher preparation is contingent upon the success of our host schools, and our investment in their success is evident through our partnerships. Below is a brief description of a number of our K-12 collaborations.
   1. Faculty and staff in the COE are working with Stafford County Public Schools to help them create and activate their virtual program for students in grades 6-12. We will be responsible for developing online course delivery competencies and a number of online courses to support their work.
   2. Faculty and staff will continue developing capacity for mentorship skills in a number of partner school divisions in the region through our Pathways to Success program. School-based mentors provide support for COE students completing internships, and also for teachers in their first two years of teaching. This year long program will focus on developing mentors’ skills with data-based decision making, culturally relevant pedagogy, and mentoring skills to become Clinical faculty.
   3. The Hazel Hill Homework Club is an after-school homework assistance program for diverse elementary and middle school students at the affordable housing Hazel Hill Apartments in downtown Fredericksburg. Some COE students will complete required practicum experiences while providing tutoring and support through the Hazel Hill Homework Club, coordinated by the COE.
   4. COE faculty, staff, and students are working in partnership with the Stafford County Public Schools to develop and deliver an after-school tutoring and enrichment program at Drew Middle School. This is year three of the federally funded 21st Century Community Learning grant program. COE students are able to meet their practicum requirements while also providing important tutoring and enrichment support for Drew Middle School students.
2. Grants:
   1. An inter-disciplinary faculty team including faculty from the College of Education developed a proposal for a National Science Foundation Noyce grant to recruit and train STEM teachers with strong content knowledge, innovative pedagogy, cultural competence to serve in high needs schools. If funded, the $1.45 million grant will help Mary Washington recruit cohorts of students to address the serious teacher shortage in math and science across five years. Grant awards should be notified in March 2022.
   2. Melissa Jenkins submitted a grant proposal to the Virginia Department of Education to support provisionally licensed special educators working in schools in the region. If funded, the program will provide structured advising and develop online Professional Learning Communities to provide professional development for provisionally licensed special education teachers. The VDOE recently requested minor revisions to the proposal’s budget indicating approval is forthcoming for the approximately $15,000 project.
3. Planning for the move into Seacobeck Hall is well underway in the College of Education. Substantial construction should be completed on December 17 to allow for move in during winter break and for our first course offerings there in spring 2022.