Annual Report: Department of Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education

NON-ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS ONLY: Highlights of the Year:

Top five accomplishments of the department

1. Curriculum Development
   - Merger of M.Ed. in Middle and Secondary Education with M.Ed. in TESL to create the broader M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction
   - UNC Board of Governors unanimously voted to move forward with the implementation of the Ed. in Urban Education. Over 30 applicants have already applied.
   - Completion of re-design of all initial licensure (undergraduate and graduate).
     - revision of 5 undergraduate programs (B.A Middle Grades, Secondary Minor, Minor in Teaching English as a Second Language, Minor in Foreign Language Education, Minor in Urban Youth and Communities)
     - Revision of 14 undergraduate and 11 graduate courses
     - Creation of eight new undergraduate and 13 new graduate courses.
     - Addition of a Career and Technical Education concentration of our Graduate Certificate in Middle and Secondary Education.
     - Expansion of Graduate Certificate in Foreign Language Education to include multiple new languages and a strategic partnership with STARTALK

2. External Reviews
   - Completion of the external review of the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction in spring 2019
   - Successful SACS review of approved off-site program (Graduate Certificate in Common Core Instruction) with no suggested recommendations for improvement.
   - The Department was recognized across campus for the 2nd time in 3 years for its use of assessment data. This time our use of student learning outcomes (SLOs) was highlighted. Special recognition was given to SACS reports for the following initial licensure programs in MDSK: BA Middle Grades Education, Graduate Certificate Foreign Language Education, Graduate Certificate Teaching English as a Second Language, Stand Alone Minor Secondary Education.

3. Research
   - 3rd annual MDSK Faculty and Graduate Student Research Symposium was held on March 28, 2019. The event continues to grow with over 40 faculty and students presenting a total of 26 poster sessions this year.
   - 3rd annual International Conference on Urban Education (ICUE 2018) was held in Nassau, Bahamas with over 400 attendees.

4. New Student Cohorts
   - A 2nd Rowan County cohort started the M.Ed. in Middle and Secondary Education.
   - 25 teachers involved in the NC Quest grant project enrolled in the M.Ed. in TESL.
   - 23 Saudi English teachers completed a year-long grant project in January (2019) that involved them completing MDSK coursework
   - A 2nd grant-funded cohort of Saudi teachers is expected to arrive in summer 2019.
   - Funding was secured to cover tuition for 25-30 new students in the M.Ed. In Curriculum & Instruction (TESL concentration).

5. Faculty Accomplishments
   - Susan Harden was elected Mecklenburg County Commissioner representing District 5.
   - Heather Coffey received the Bonnie Cone Early-Career Professor for Teaching Award (August 2018).
   - Hilary Dack was selected as the President Elect of the National Professors of Middle Level Education (NaPOMLE) at the annual Conference for Middle Level Education.
   - Tina Heafner began her term as President Elect of the National Council for the Social Studies.
   - Michelle Stephan’s co-authored article, What mathematics education may prepare students for the society of the future? has been recognized by Springer’s Change the World, One Article at a Time Initiative.
   - Chance Lewis was presented with the International Colloquium on Black Males Warrior Award.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: Goal #1:
The department completed the re-design of all graduate initial licensure programs to make the programs more competitive, more practice-based, and to better prepare candidates to meet the needs of diverse students in K-12 schools. The re-designed included the following:
- Revision of 11 graduate courses
- Creation of 13 new graduate courses.

The M.Ed. in Urban Education is scheduled to launch in fall 2019, as is the Graduate Certificate in National Board Certification and the new CTE concentration of our Graduate Certificate in Middle and Secondary Education.

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above: New Educational Programs

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: Goal #2:
Faculty Publications

As demonstrated in the table below, in 2018, MDSK faculty published four books, 12 book chapters, and 34 articles in peer reviewed journals for a total of 50 publications.

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<td>Articles</td>
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<td>Mean/Faculty</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>3.15</td>
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Faculty Publications

Books


Book Chapters


Articles


**Student Publications**

As demonstrated in the table below, the research productivity of MDSK students increased in 2018. The greatest was in the number of articles published in peer-reviewed journals. The caliber of the journals should also be noted. As documented in the detailed list provided below, MDSK students co-authored publications with MDSK faculty that appeared in such prestigious journals as *Foreign Language Annals, Teaching and Teacher Education, Journal of Social Studies Research,* and *Action in Teacher Education.* It should also be noted when describing student research activity that the number of MDSK students that presented in the MDSK Faculty and Graduate Student Research Symposium increased significantly from 2018 to 2019. In 2019, the number of poster sessions increased from 21 to 26 and we had over 40 presenters.

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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**Books**


**Book Chapters**


**Articles**


**Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above:**

**Student Success (Retention, graduation, high impact experiences, publications, scholarships, awards)**

**Faculty Success (Publications, grants, awards)**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: Goal #3:**

- MDSK faculty continued partnerships with 20 different schools and school districts and six community organizations in 2018.
- School partners participated in the re-design of multiple MDSK initial licensure programs.
- MDSK has partnered with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to develop a Career & Technical Education concentration of its Graduate Certificate in Middle and Secondary Education.
- MDSK has partnered with Cabarrus County Schools to submit a Teacher Quality Partnership Grant that would fund teacher training for a diverse cohort of 15 aspiring secondary school teachers.
- The NC Quest grant project came to a conclusion. The project provided intense professional development related to the Common Core State Standards to 28 teachers at 3 high needs schools with a large percentage of English language learners.
- The Department was also successful in recruiting another cohort of approximately 25 students into the M.Ed in Middle and Secondary Education (Rowan County). The Iredell County cohort of the M.Ed in Middle and Secondary Education is scheduled to graduate in spring 2019.
- The Department also secured funding from the Graduate School to support a new cohort of 25-30 candidates in the M.Ed in Curriculum & Instruction (TESL concentration) to start in fall 2019.
- The Department collaborated with the Office of International Programs to receive a $900,000+ grant that brought 23 Saudis to campus for a year where they completed MDSK and English language training coursework. The grant from the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) put 23 experienced Saudi English teachers in classrooms across CMS, UCPS, Cabarrus County and Kannapolis City Schools to serve as teaching assistants in classrooms with large numbers of English learners. A 2nd cohort is expected to arrive in 2019 after submission of another successful grant proposal to SACM.
- As demonstrated in the table below, the number of community partnerships involving MDSK faculty decreased in 2018. A more detailed list and description of the individual partnerships are provided below.
Examples of Data-Based Improvements:

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above:

Community Partnerships

Kristin Davin
1. Foreign Language Association of North Carolina
2. Catalyst Editor

Heather Coffey
1. Advent Lutheran Church
   1. Through the outreach efforts of Advent Lutheran Church, students enrolled in my service-learning courses and I have provided countless hours of volunteering with residents of the College Downs/Robinsdale Apartments community and the homeless population of Charlotte.
   2. Through this partnership, we meet the needs of the congregation and leaders of Advent Lutheran Church. Their outreach program supports several efforts with underserved populations in Charlotte. We assist with Hit the Streets, a bi-weekly outreach that feeds the homeless community in uptown Charlotte. We help with set up and prepare the church gym for Room in the Inn, a temporary homeless shelter for 14 residents on Monday nights from December-March. And we serve as tutors for youth residents of Robinsdale Apartments, which is a section 8 housing community in the College Downs neighborhood across from the university.
3. 50 participants

Tina Heafner
1. National Council for the Social Studies
   1. Pk-12 Social Studies teachers and administrators, College and University faculty, state social studies specialists, district social studies specialists from across the nation. International scholars and educators.
   2. Keynote addresses, represent organization at other professional meetings, engage with members and political leaders, to organize opportunities for member learning (e.g. webinars, workshops, leadership academies), plan conferences, write and publish position statements, and etc.
3. 100 participants

Lan Kolano
1. Southeast Asian Coalition
   1. Provide academic support of high school English Learners from diverse CMS schools such as West Charlotte, Garinger, Independence high schools in an after school program.
   2. 15 UNCC students; 20 SEAC students
2. ourBRIDGE for Kids
   1. CMS students K-8th grade received academic and linguistic support from UNCC undergraduate and graduate students in TESL on a weekly basis at ourBRIDGE for kids during the spring and fall semesters
   2. 15 UNCC students; ourBRIDGE participants
   3. Students at ourBRIDGE experienced growth in reading and math scores, increased academic language, and developed higher confidence through their participation at ourBRIDGE.

Michele Stephan
1. North Carolina Collaborative on Mathematics Learning; NC Department of Public Instruction
2. NC mathematics teachers and students
3. Create a state-wide infrastructure to support a shared vision of high quality mathematics instruction among teachers, administrators, and broader community; A social network among mathematics teachers across the state, especially for teachers in small and rural districts; Creation of and access to research-based resources to teach K-12 mathematics.

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above: External Partnerships (internships, joint ventures, community engagement)

New Educational Programs

External Public Relations/Outreach

Examples of Data-Based Improvements:

- In 2018, multiple MDSK faculty members participated in the re-design of the Department’s initial licensure programs (undergraduate and graduate). To guide and inform the re-design faculty and administrators 1) participated in “learning tours” of innovative teacher preparation programs, 2) attended related conferences, 3) organized “text talks” to read and discuss influential articles on critical teaching skills, and 4) participated in the 2018 Teacher Education Institute (TEI). Complementing the above-mentioned initiatives, MDSK faculty sought, collected, and analyzed data and feedback to inform the re-design from a variety of sources. After two years of professional development and data collection, in summer and fall 2018, task forces of MDSK faculty completed a major re-design of our initial licensure programs to make them more convenient (online), cost-effective (fewer required credit hours and distance education pricing), time-sensitive (less than 1 year to complete), practice-based, and attentive to focus practices and opportunities for candidate rehearsal and coaching. Further, responding to data from multiple sources, the re-designed programs offer greater to previous areas of weakness (i.e., classroom leadership, working in urban schools, and using data to guide and inform instruction).
- The Department was recognized across campus for the 2nd time in 3 years for its use of assessment data. This time our use of student learning outcomes (SLOs) was highlighted. Special recognition was given to SACS reports for the following initial licensure programs in MDSK: BA Middle Grades Education, Graduate Certificate Foreign Language Education, Graduate Certificate Teaching English as a Second Language, Stand Alone Minor Secondary Education.
- Extensive amounts of data specific to the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction were compiled, analyzed, and shared as part of an external review of the program to be conducted in May, 2019.
Other Major Accomplishments:

1. Licensure test (Praxis) pass rates for MDSK undergraduate programs improved from spring 2017 to spring 2018. Most notable improvement was among candidates in the B.A Middle Grades Program, for which pass rates improved from 70% in spring 2017 to 85% in spring 2018.

2. Praxis pass rates among graduate candidates in MDSK programs also improved from spring 2017 to spring 2018. For example, 100% of TESL candidates passed the Praxis in spring 2018 compared to 85% in spring 2017.

Start: 07/01/2018
End: 06/30/2019
Progress: Ongoing or Future Activity
Providing Department: Middle Grades, Secondary & K-12