

Letter from the Dean



Jerri Haynes, Ed.D., Dean

Greetings,

As the new Dean in the College of Education here at Tennessee State University, it gives me great pleasure to start the school year building on TSU's extraordinary legacy. TSU has a legacy of empowering, supporting and advocating for students, faculty, and staff in their academic pursuits as well as executing curricular, pedagogical, and programmatic innovations—all characteristics of the College of Education standard of excellence. Building on this momentum is an opportunity as the new dean to provide inspirational, motivational, and transformational leadership while working with others to develop a cohesive vision, infused with renewed options for the future of the College of Education.

As the new dean, I approach this academic year knowing that I have the best job in the world. I get to amplify and support the groundbreaking work of our colleagues and our students. I have the honor—and the responsibility—of leading a College with the audacious goal of advancing learning, excellence, critical thinking and service in a diverse and complex world. Education is our priority at TSU. Our students, families, and stakeholders deserve education and psychology programs that create a culture of academic rigor and relevance that are embedded in our core values at TSU: excellence, learning, accountability, integrity, shared governance, diversity, and service.

I am very pleased to share with you the many initiatives, events and achievements in the College of Education through this Alumni Newsletter. This Newsletter touches a few of the exciting developments that took place in the College of Education during the summer and fall semesters. Among our many initiatives are the Global Education Lab, Paraprofessional Education Pathway (PEP), Focus groups for doctoral students and Partnerships with Cheatham, Franklin, Sumner, and Rutherford School districts. We are working to bring the world to our education and psychology programs and, conversely, to the world, our education and psychology programs. We are substantially expanding access to students from all walks of life who are committed to academic excellence. We will continue to implement the core values, providing our students, alumni, and stakeholders quality education and psychology programs. We will continue to challenge our students to reach higher, think critically, solve problems and realize their full potential. When our students complete our education or psychology programs, they will be well-prepared to compete for jobs and join a global workforce. In addition, they would have made one of their career goals a reality. They will leave with knowledge and skills in education and psychology to become tomorrow's great leaders. I look forward to traveling this exciting journey with you at TSU where excellence is our habit!

Meet the College of Education Team



Teamwork in the College of Education

The College of Education Team consist of three distinguished departments: Educational Leadership, Psychology, and Teaching and Learning. This team is dedicated to preparing teachers, counselors, psychologists, and administrators to work effectively with schools and communities. While each department is supervised by a chair, the Dean is responsible for the overall administration of the College. Additionally, operational support is provided by the Office of Teacher Education and Student Services, and the Office of Assessment and Accreditation. All these components work together to create a dynamic educational environment where the number one priority is student success. This synergy within the College where all work toward a common goal of excellence has resulted in state approval and national accreditation of our education and psychology programs. Reflecting the College's standard of excellence, this newsletter illustrates our efforts to prepare competent and caring facilitators of learning, committed to diversity and the success of all students.

Heraldo V. Richards, Ph.D., Associate Dean

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New Team Members

This year the College of Education welcomed six new faculty to its team: Drs. Mack Hines, Terrance McNeil, and Kristen Wilson in Educational Leadership; and Drs. Tiffany Williams, Kyoung Kim, and Ester Lynch in Psychology. We are excited by the awesome credentials and experience these new faculty bring to further strengthen our College of Education Team.



Office of Assessment and Accreditation (OAA)



**Trinetia Respress, Ed.D.,
Assistant Dean**

Greetings from the Office of Assessment and Accreditation (OAA)! The OAA oversees all assessment in the college and coordinates all preparation for accreditation. The 2019-2020 academic year began with the great news of full accreditation of the Ph.D. Psychology program by the American Psychological Association (APA). At the onset of this academic year, the college also initiated preparation efforts for upcoming accreditation/reaffirmation visits, including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), March of 2020; Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), Spring 2023; and M.S Psychology Audit Board, March 2020. Preparations have focused on review of program learning outcomes, identification of assessment instruments, examination of continuous improvement efforts, and revisions to the quality assurance system. The college also implemented the first data retreat for this academic year. Faculty, staff, administrators, and school district superintendents/representatives met on November 1st to collaborate on the development of program learning outcomes for each program in the college. Additionally, the college held a focus group with doctoral students on October 22nd to solicit feedback on their doctoral experience. The event was a great success, and the feedback is being used for continuous improvement efforts.

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Educational Leadership



Kirmanj Gundi, Ed.D., Chair

The Department of Educational Leadership (EDLD) welcomed three new faculty members to the department, one in the Higher Education concentration and two in the PreK-12 concentration. The department is excited to add these new faculty to the Educational Leadership family.

The department is making great progress in the development of an online doctoral program. The program will be fully developed and ready for enrollment by the end of May 2020.

To improve the licensure degree programs for Instructional Leadership at the M. Ed. and Ed. S. levels, the department has established a partnership with Metro Nashville Public School

(MNPS). A series of productive partnership meetings provided the department with greater insight into the leadership needs of MNPS. This collaborative partnership has enhanced the approach to preparing educational leaders who will be able to lead at the state, national, and international levels.

The department has developed aggressive recruitment strategies, resulting in significant growth in student enrollment. Improvement in recruitment has meant a larger headcount in all the Educational Leadership programs. This effort has contributed to an increase in graduation rates. Finally, under Dean Jerri Haynes' leadership, the department was successful in obtaining a grant for \$300,000 to train 50 candidates for the Aspiring Assistant Principal Network, offered through the Tennessee Department of Education. The project will be implemented in June 2020.

Faculty Spotlight in Educational Leadership



Mack Hines, Ed.D.

Dr. Mack Hines, Ed.D., a new associate professor, has started his career at TSU with productivity and conviction. Extremely student-oriented, he is unable to contain his excitement when he discusses his opportunity work with students of color at TSU. The students' enthusiastic response to him confirms his connection with them. Already a sought-after speaker on culturally relevant instruction, and the author of three books on the subject, Dr. Hines is continuing to publish and present at various national conferences.

From November 11-13, 2019, Dr. Mack Hines attended the Critical Questions in Education Conference. Held in Chicago, the conference boasted the theme, "Supporting Public Schools, Teachers, and Students." Dr. Hines presented a paper entitled, "Whites Fighting The Good Fight: How White People Are Advocating for Social Justice in Schools". In the presentation, Dr. Hines discussed his work in developing cultural consciousness in White educators.

Dr. Hines' presentation was rated highly by session participants. Many participants expressed appreciation for the information he shared. One White participant said, "You have encouraged me to open this discussion for the benefit of racially diverse students at my school."

Psychology



Kiesa Kelly, Ph.D. Chair

The Psychology Department hosted their 10th Annual Psychology Educators of Tennessee (PET) conference at the Avon Williams Campus on October 26, 2019. Nationally renowned speaker, Regan Gurung, gave the keynote address and led a workshop on the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) in psychology.

The conference attracted attendees from universities across Tennessee as well as outside the state. Universities represented included Belmont University (BU), East Tennessee State University (ETSU), Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), Austin Peay State University (APSU), University of Memphis (UM), Columbia State Community College (CSCC), and Kentucky Wesleyan University (KWU).

PET was started 10 years ago by Dr. Kelly with a grant from the Association of Psychological Science. Dr. Kelly hosts the annual conference, assisted by a steering committee including Linda Jones, Ph.D. (chair, Psychology Department, BU); Tom Brinthaup, Ph.D. (psychology professor, MTSU); Wendy Hart (teacher, Brentwood High School); and Jenny Mason, Ph.D. (chair, Psychology Department, Cumberland University). The committee aims to provide local psychology educators with national-quality professional development opportunities focused on excellence in the teaching of psychology.

Faculty Spotlight in Psychology



Roberto Abreu, Ph.D., NCC

Roberto Abreu, Ph.D., a relatively new appointment to the Department of Psychology, has been making his mark as a true scholar on the national stage. Although Dr. Abreu completed his PhD in Counseling Psychology at the University of Kentucky as recently as 2018, in his year and a half in TSU's Department of Psychology, he has already positioned himself as a national leader in the area of LGBTQ people of color and has received national recognition for his research, scholarship, and expertise in this understudied area. Even more importantly, he is a highly student-centered and committed faculty member and colleague, who contributes greatly to the department's commitment to social justice and advocacy. The Department of Psychology is fortunate to have Dr. Abreu as a member of their team, and the College is honored that he chose TSU to advance his scholarship.

Dr. Abreu's scholarship continues to garner him awards. He was recently recognized by the National

Latinx Psychological Association (NLPA) for outstanding service to the association. Additionally, the American Psychological Association (APA, Division 17, Presented him with an award for Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship on Race and Ethnicity. It is obvious that Dr. Abreu is on a career trajectory that will take him to great heights in the field of psychology.

Teaching and Learning



Clara Young, Ed.D. Chair

The Department of Teaching and Learning has been actively recruiting new students, and providing professional development workshops for current students. Beth Christian, Professor in Teaching and Learning and a TSU Coordinator at Volunteer State Community College (Vol State) recently participated in a student engagement event to recruit current Associate of Science in Teaching (AST) students planning to transfer to a four year university for their bachelor's degree and licensure in education. The students pursuing Elementary and Early Childhood Education were happy to learn that they could continue their studies towards a bachelor's degree at the Vol State campus through the TSU offsite program, with clinical placements in Sumner and surrounding county schools. In addition, they were excited to know that Community College Scholarships of \$4,000 per year are available to students who graduate with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

In the area of professional development, Mrs. Chelonnda Seroyer, a colleague of Harry Wong (renowned author of *The First Days of School*) presented a workshop on classroom management to the Pre-Block 1 and Residency 1 students. The presentation was interactive, engaging students in informative question and answer activities. Mrs. Seroyer has a son who is a freshman at TSU.

Faculty Spotlight in Teaching and Learning



Kisha Bryant, Ph.D.

Kisha C. Bryan, Ph.D., has been selected to co-chair the Diverse Voices Task Force for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages International Association, Inc (TESOL). During the 2019 TESOL Convention, incoming TESOL President Deborah Healey, TESOL senior staff, and African American TESOLers highlighted fundamental issues regarding diversity and inclusion in the adjudication process, broader representation at the convention, and in various levels of TESOL leadership. In order to address these issues, the leadership created the Diverse Voices Task Force (DVTF). The task force will provide recommendations to TESOL's Board of Directors to cultivate diverse leadership and a culture of inclusion in the association. They have been charged to research and report on the ways that other associations address diversity and inclusion and diversify their leadership, develop a vision statement on diversity and inclusion for the associa-

tion, develop recommendations on how TESOL International Association can cultivate diverse leadership at all levels within the association, and identify possible mechanisms the association can employ to develop diverse leaders for the benefit of the field and profession. Dr. Bryan and the task force members will deliver preliminary findings, including a vision statement and recommendations at the annual convention in Denver, Colorado in March 2020.

TSU Students *Think. Work. Serve.* In Mexican Schools

College of Education students had the amazing opportunity to think, work, and serve in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, in summer 2019. During their three-week trip to San Miguel de Allende, they co-taught lessons at Escuela Juan Alvarez Rural Primaria, Academia Internacional Bilingue, and Escuela de Educación Especial de San Miguel de Allende. In addition, these student teachers donated school supplies to rural community schools, visited an orphanage and several UNESCO Heritage sites, and met pre-service teachers at Universidad de Patria.

The Mexico study abroad experience, co-led by Drs. Kisha Bryan and Carole de Casal, was funded in part by a TSU Office of International Affairs grant. The program's focus on international language, culture, and teaching-related experiences that develop awareness and affirm positive views of diversity was deemed to be an exemplar high impact educational experience.



L-R: Eunicia Turner (Elem. Education), Dr. Carole de Casal, Tracia Alexander (Ed. Leadership), Shaliyah Brooks (Sec. Education), Mr. Rodolfo Fernández Martínez (Host), Regeaner Hughes (Elem. Education), Amy Mycrnza (Elem. Education), Asia Crenshaw (Speech Language Pathology), Dr. Kisha Bryan, Jesus Barillo (Host), and Zara Chandra Fernández (Host)

Teacher Education and Student Services

Preparation for teacher candidates began in late June with the completion of clinical placements and finalization of plans for the 2019 Fall orientation on August 23 on the Avon Williams Campus. Inspired by the orientation theme, “Moving Forward to a New Beginning, Dr. Jerri Haynes, the new Dean of the College of Education, enthusiastically welcomed 26 undergraduate students (2 Early Childhood, 18 Elementary, 6 Secondary) into the year-long Residency. The Dean’s remarks highlighted the exciting challenges and responsibilities ahead of the candidates as they embarked on their co-teaching journey.

The morning orientation consisted of breakout sessions covering topics, such as Professionalism, TN Teacher Code of Ethics, INTASC Standards, Co-Teaching Model, Classroom Management, and the Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model (TEAM). The afternoon session featured guest speaker Dr. Carlos Comer, a Metro-Nashville School Principal. Dr. Comer’s engaging dialogue with the candidates enlightened them about “principals’ expectation of teachers.”

The Teacher Candidates began their Residency 1 this fall anxious but motivated. By most accounts, the Teacher Candidates found the residency to be a fulfilling experience. Their knowledge grew from their experience in the classroom and the mentorship provided by their Mentor Teachers and Master Clinicians. The semester was capped by a job fair sponsored by the Metro Nashville Public Schools. One of the Teacher Candidates commented, “I went to the job fair for Metro Nashville Schools and I was well prepared by TSU, so I felt very comfortable in answering all interview questions. Thank you TSU!”

TESS expresses gratitude to the Teacher Candidates, Mentor Teachers, Master Clinicians, and University Supervisors for a productive and successful fall semester of Residency I. Given the energy of the Teacher Candidates and enthusiastic support of the stakeholders, Residency 2 promises to be just as fulfilling as Residency 1.

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Teacher Candidates in Action



Fall 2019 Teacher Education Orientation



Think, Work, Serve

3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard,
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Presentation and Publication

Presentation:

Broyles, T.W., Reid, A.M., Hammond, M.S., & Martin, E.D. (2019, December). *Agricultural Science Student Success and Retention: Developing Students for Successful Agricultural Careers*. Paper presented at the 77th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, December 9, 2019.

Publication:

Van Alebeek, W., & Wilson, K. B. (2019). Explaining the College Choice Decisions of International Students at a Regional University in the United States. *Journal of Research in International Education*, 18(3), 292–309. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1475240919892468>

Recognitions and Awards

The **American Psychological Association (APA)** has granted reaccreditation to PhD Psychology-Counseling Psychology program for the next ten years.

The **American Psychological Association (APA)** has selected TSU's **PhD Psychology - Counseling Psychology program** to be a recipient of the **2019 Richard M. Suinn Minority Achievement Award** for our work in promoting Social justice and diversity.

STEA Captures Awards

The Student Tennessee Education Association won two honors at the 2019 University Student Organization Awards: **Outstanding Advisor of the Year** and **Outstanding Commitment to Service**. STEA was one of two academic/professional organizations to receive an award, and the only group to receive two (nominated for five!). STEA and their advisor, Dr. Nicole Arrighi, are grateful for the support from the college community, and look forward to more faculty/student engagement!



STEAs Students

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