

Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Academic Annual Report

Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education

Year in Review

Accomplishments

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-2007 year that will contribute to this effort? [Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.]

1. This year the EESE department completed a strategic plan that will provide direction for the next five years in regard to marketing of the program, student recruitment and retention, and sources of private funding. 2. This year the EESE department secured \$in grant funding. 3. Faculty in the EESE department were active participants in the laptop initiative. All regular tenure track faculty members received laptops with docking stations. Several faculty are now in the process of obtaining the second round of laptops. Faculty regularly use technology for enhancing the delivery of courses both on-line and in the classroom. 4. The Indiana Reading Corp and the SMART Program are meeting the growing demand for literacy and math tutoring in Vigo County. These projects serve elementary students at both the Vigo County Library and the Vigo County School Corporation. 5. The Professional Development School partnership continues to be a successful initiative for the faculty in the department. Departmental faculty serve as liaisons to the various PDS sites (Deming, Fuqua, West Vigo, Sarah Scott, Meadows, Davis Park, Staunton, Rosedale, and DeVaney) and utilize many of these same sites for practicum and student teaching experiences. 6. The EESE department has active student organizations. The Student Council for Exceptional children provides a link to the special needs population in Vigo County. This organizations sponsors events that benefit the special needs population and provides informational programs for interested faculty and pre-service teachers. The Indiana Student Education Association sponsors programs and speakers, and is also active at the state level. Kappa Delta Pi provides leadership and information for pre-service teachers, and sponsors programs and speakers. 7. Faculty and staff were actively engaged in the recruitment and retention of students as they participated in the Majors Fair, Dial-a-Student, Tele-Student, 20th Century Scholars recruitment, Graduate Student Recruitment and Knowing Sycamores. In addition, department faculty meet with individual prospective students and their parents on a continuing basis. The department sends all students that express an interest in our programs personal letters.

Research and Scholarship

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship that is focused primarily on contributions to practice and discipline-based scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

The Elementary, early, and Special Education faculty continue to be productive in the area of research and scholarship. Faculty published twelve articles, two chapters, and one book. They have given thirty-one conference presentations at the local, regional, state, national, and international level. Given that faculty are heavily engaged in Professional Development School work and also engaged in Project PRE initiatives, along with teaching and service, their accomplishments in this area are to be commended. The department will continue to hold expectations for more scholarly engagement.

Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

In the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional services, the Department of Elementary, Early, and Special Education had notable activity. According to the latest OSPIRE report, the department was awarded \$1,282,710.00 in grant funding. The funding came from internal and external sources. External sources included the Indiana Reading Corp, the Indiana Council for Higher Education, the Indiana Department of Education, and Walmart. Internal sources of funding included international travel grants, experiential and liberal learning grants, Lilly grants, and technology grants. The Department of Elementary, Early, and Special Education faculty have been especially active in the area of off campus service. This service includes committee membership at the department, college and university level. Service is provided to local schools through professional development activities and joint grant activity. Faculty serve on local, regional, state, and national committees as members, committee chairs, reviewers, and officers.

Teaching

We would like to highlight innovative approaches to teaching. Has your department developed any pedagogies or practices you'd like to share with us? Please describe briefly.

Departmental faculty continue to be leaders in the laptop initiative. Many faculty are now receiving new laptops through the second round of laptops. All faculty are using Livetext to assess and record student mastery of standards. Many faculty receive internal technology grants in order to further enhance their teaching through technology. Collaboration with Indiana Reading Corp has enabled pre-service teachers to learn additional assessment and instructional methods related to reading instruction. The SMART program has enabled pre-service teachers to engage in additional experiences related to effective math methods.

Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

What have been your greatest challenges in scheduling courses to meet student needs this year? How were you able to overcome them?

The Department of Elementary, Early and Special Education has been meeting the departmental student credit hour targets for undergraduate and graduate courses. Each semester we assess the numbers of undergraduate students enrolled in courses in the blocks and plan subsequent sections accordingly to ensure that there are not low enrolled courses. However, enrollment in block classes is kept at a manageable level so that faculty can adequately supervise practicum experiences. These practicums are a strength of our programs and ensure that our teacher education graduates have had multiple classroom experiences before their culminating student teaching semester. Graduate classes are scheduled so that university enrollment targets are met.

Outreach

What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)

1. A new departmental website provides links to program descriptions, requirements, the application process, and forms.
2. The website highlights faculty and student achievements, information on scholarships, and links to other sites of interest to students.
3. Scholarships support undergraduate and graduate students.
4. Programs are widely advertised through circulars delivered to area schools.

5. Courses are delivered as on-line courses or as hybrid courses. 6. Faculty are actively engaged in professional organizations to develop ISU name recognition and advertise programs. 7. Grants have provided support to graduate enrollment (Writing Through the Arts). 8. Faculty actively recruit students through participation in the Majors Fair, tele-counseling, Sycamore Advantage and meeting individually with students and parents 9. Articulation agreements with Vincennes and Ivy tech.

Strategic Initiatives

Development Activities

What steps have you taken to support development activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?

The Department of Elementary, Early and Special Education continues to seek scholarships and grants to support undergraduate and graduate students and programs. Scholarship winners are celebrated with an Honors Day Program.

Community Engagement I

Please summarize your faculty's efforts in community engagement this year.

The Department of Elementary, Early and Special Education is committed to providing experiential learning for all students in its programs. Teacher candidates in all undergraduate programs engage in early field experiences beginning with 100 level classes and they continue to have intensive field experiences throughout the program culminating with student teaching.

Experiential Learning

We are interested in hearing about any innovative approaches you might have taken to incorporate experiential learning into your course or departmental work this year.

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Future Goals

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The University is highlighting experiential learning, community engagement, and eminent programs as aspects of our campus that will attract students and resources. How is your department planning to contribute to these strategic initiatives in ways that will help ISU be recognized as a Pre-eminent University?

The Department of Elementary, Early and Special Education continues to support the initiatives of experiential learning, community engagement and eminent programs. The department along with the CIMT Department applied to be a program of distinction. The department will continue to work collaboratively with other units on campus and the community to promote these initiatives.