
Office of Educational Research Bulletin (ORB)

News & Notes

In mid-December, Margaret Atherton of the UF Foundation contacted Catherine about the Smallwood Foundation's interest in proposals from COE faculty for projects related to K-12 outreach. Although the request for proposals came on short notice, at the end of the semester, and with the holidays looming, there was an excellent response to this solicitation, and 14 proposals were received.

Ana and I met with Laforis Knowles to review the submissions and to choose four to send on. Our job was difficult because the proposals were all good and we had little guidance about what kind of proposals Smallwood would look most favorably upon. In the end, at Margaret Atherton's suggestion, we emphasized outreach and chose proposals that best exemplified that kind of work. Here are excerpts from the proposals we selected:

Smallwood Foundation Fellowship for Principal Leadership and Professional Development in Special Education Administration by Jean Crockett and David Quinn

....More than 95% of the 6.8 million students with disabilities in the United States today are educated in public schools, yet few school principals are prepared to provide leadership that ensures these students an appropriate education. At the University of Florida, *The EXCELSIOR Initiative for Principal Leadership and*

Professional Development in Special Education Administration—an interdisciplinary collaborative across the College of Education—is designed to help Florida schools meet this need. We are requesting support to fund a fellowship for highly qualified graduate students who can assist Florida's principals in strengthening their leadership for special education administration by building their capacity to use evidence-based school improvement practices, providing training and onsite professional development, and fostering partnerships.... Improving schools for all students is at the heart of this proposed initiative...

Project ONSTAAR— Online Support for Teacher and Administrator Action Research by Nancy Dana, Kara Dawson, Chris Sessums, and Diane Yendol-Hoppey

....Districts across Florida struggle to improve their schools through meaningful staff development for teachers and administrators targeted at increasing student achievement. One powerful form of staff development...is action research. Action research is defined as practitioners systematically studying their own classroom or administrative practice, through the process of defining research questions, collecting data, analyzing data, synthesizing and sharing with other practitioners what was learned, and taking action for change.... A comprehensive, systematic, and user-friendly system is not

available to help educators learn the action research process; receive support from knowledgeable action research coaches...; capture, collate, analyze, and synthesize the individual teacher research that occurs throughout an entire district over the school year; and systematically search teacher research.... [T]he purpose of this outreach initiative is to capitalize on several existing College of Education initiatives to create a full-service technology-based system to support school improvement through teacher and administrator inquiry...

Learning through Academic Play: Summer Enrichment for Children Living in Poverty by Dorene Ross, Elizabeth Bondy, Elizabeth Yeager, Kara Dawson, Linda Jones, Tom Dana, and Emery Bishop

...Despite intensive efforts, the achievement gap between poor, minority students and their more advantaged peers persists. Studies suggest that children from poverty make strong academic gains each school year but lose ground over the summer, while children from more advantaged backgrounds make gains as a result of attending summer enrichment programs. With supplemental funding from the Smallwood Foundation, the proposed project will draw on resources from the University of Florida (UF), DansCompany (a private dance studio), and the School Board of Alachua County (SBAC) to create an eight-week, full-day summer enrichment camp program for children of poverty in east Gainesville. Simultaneously, the project will provide a context for teacher education for both practicing teachers and university students who are preparing to become teachers...

Broadening Opportunities for Success in the Sciences by Troy Sadler

...[I]t is essential to engage talented young minds in science and to prepare them to become tomorrow's scientific and technological leaders. While preparation of the next generation of scientists is significant for all segments of society, recruitment of groups underrepresented in the sciences is particularly important...Hispanics and African Americans participate in scientific and medical communities in woefully low proportions.... Opportunities to work in authentic science research settings with experts can have very powerful impacts on student intellectual development, beliefs about their own abilities to do science, and awareness of career options in science.... [UF's] Center for Precollegiate Education and Training offers opportunities for high school students to participate in science apprenticeships. The Student Science Training Program (SSTP) is a seven-week, summer program during which talented high school students work intensely with scientists and their research teams.... With support from the Smallwood Foundation, we would like to establish SSTP scholarships for students from underrepresented groups with demonstrated financial need. To facilitate this work, we have partnered with the UF Alliance, an ongoing collaboration between UF and a network of low performing, urban high schools...

Although we were limited to four Smallwood proposals, we plan to use the other proposals to create research prospectuses. In collaboration with the Offices of Development and News and Publications, we are developing prospectuses for Laforis and the new Development Director to use in

conversations with potential donors. At this point, we are working on prototypes, about which we'll be seeking your feedback.

Eventually, all interested COE faculty will have the opportunity to develop prospectuses about the work you want to do using the prototypes as a guide. We are excited about this new opportunity to showcase your research ideas and perhaps pique the interest of potential donors. We look forward to your contributions to this new initiative.

OER Happenings

Please mark your calendars for the following OER-sponsored events:

We have scheduled a follow-up meeting to the **IFAS Grant Writing Seminar** a number of COE faculty attended in December. It will be held in the **Terrace Room** on **Friday, January 26** from **10:00 to 11:30 am**.

The purpose of this session is to talk about impressions garnered from the training and research ideas you may have. We want to invite all COE faculty to attend to help connect individuals and groups who have common interests and discuss specific ways in which we might support proposal writers through to completion.

We will provide cookies and refreshments; to make sure we have enough for everyone, please **RSVP** to Ana: anapuig@coe.ufl.edu by **Monday, January 22**.

December Submissions

Best wishes go to **Catherine Emihovich** for her submission to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; to **Nicholas Grimaudo** and **Linda Behar-Horenstein** for their submission to the Division of Sponsored Research; to **Walter Leite** for his submission to the AERA Grants Program; and to **Fran Vandiver** for her submission to the Florida Department of Education. For more details about these submissions, see the table on the next page.

Ana & Paul

College of Education – Funded Projects – December 2007

No new projects were funded during the month of December.

College of Education – Submitted Proposals – December 2007

Principal Investigator: C. Emihovich

Funding Agency: US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Proposal Title: Norman Hall Renovation Project

Requested Amount: \$396,000

Principal Investigator: N.J. Grimaudo **Co-PI:** L.S. Behar-Horenstein

Funding Agency: Division of Sponsored Research

Proposal Title: Increasing Access to Oral Health Care

Requested Amount: \$75,850

Principal Investigator: W.L. Leite

Funding Agency: AERA Grants Program

Proposal Title: Children Who Change Schools and Their Academic Growth: Identifying Family Factors that Reduce the Risk of Lower Academic Achievements in High-Mobility Children

Requested Amount: \$35,000

Principal Investigator: F.M. Vandiver

Funding Agency: Florida Department of Education

Proposal Title: Title IV, Safe and Drug-Free Schools

Requested Amount: \$3,088