

Thought for the fall semester:

“Make your subject more of a verb and less of a noun—encourage active learning!”

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Welcome to Our World

The faculty and staff of GRCC’s Teacher Education Department extend to you a warm “Welcome Back!” to the 2009-2010 school year. It’s great to have you with us and we wish you much success. Know that you are a part of an award-winning program and we look forward to seeing how your contributions will make it even better.

Exciting activities are being planned: seminars, volunteer opportunities, informative classes, and of course, our Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship. We encourage you to take full advantage of our offerings and feel free to stop by the office with any questions or concerns you may have.

We also urge you to read the Teacher Education Newsletter that is available through your education classes and in the literature rack outside of our office. This is a way for you to stay up-to-date on all department information. It can be located online as well through the Teacher Education website.

Teaching is a challenging, yet rewarding and exciting profession. Thank you for wanting to join us. We’re glad you’re here!



This is How We Do It!

Here are some pictures from past Teacher Education events. Don’t miss the fun as well as the chance to meet others just like you. Get involved and get what you need to know.



Teachers of Tomorrow Scholars Recognized

On August 27, 2009, Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarships were presented at the annual Awards Luncheon. Dr. Joseph Hesse, scholarship coordinator, and Dr. Becky Brinks, Director of Child Development and Teacher Education were on hand to make the presentations. We are all very proud of these students and congratulate them on this achievement.

These scholarships of up to \$1600 are awarded through the Financial Aid Office at GRCC. Applications are available in January and are due by March 15. The awards are for use at GRCC only and recipients are expected to participate in Teacher Education opportunities throughout the year.

For further information on how you can qualify, please contact Staci Dever in the Education Department at (616) 234-3380.

Dr. Hesse, in introductory remarks, urges future teachers to "pay it forward."



Congratulations to our recipients:

Hawa Amir
 Haley Andrews
 Tamara Bethke
 Barbara Bouthillier
 Courtney DeVries
 Amy Gardner
 Breeze Hager
 Kairee Haley
 Elsa Harding
 Kim Harding
 Ashley Kapteyn
 Kyungmin Kim
 Natalie Klocko
 Benjamin Laning
 Hannah Merck
 Megan Taylor
 Ashley VanTassel
 Aletha VanValkenburg



Scholarship winners who were present at the luncheon, along with GRCC faculty and dean

Picture Yourself Receiving a Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship Next Year

Don't let this opportunity slip past you. Do well in your classes and stay involved. Select a GRCC mentor from a pre-approved list and remain in contact with them throughout the academic year. These career educators can answer questions that you may have about teaching a particular subject or level. We are all here to help you prepare for your future as an effective teacher.

Reflections on the Volunteer Experience

Teaching in the Middle



By Dametrice Jordan

During the winter semester of 2009, I tutored a group of sixth grade math students at Martin Luther King Leadership Academy. This tutoring program helped me as a prospective teacher because it gave me experience working not only with children, but also

with other teachers. It was a great start to my teaching career, and I would recommend this to anyone going into education.

When I first began this journey I was nervous and excited. I was nervous because I did not know how the group of students would react to someone who was a stranger to them. My excitement, however, came from the fact that I was going to be working directly with children, finding out what it was like to actually help someone to learn.

The math teacher who I worked with made this program successful. From the very beginning she told me what particular areas each individual student struggled in. She also gave me updates about each student's progress, and this information helped me tremendously. I was then able to see if what I was trying to do was really helpful. On an average, I worked with roughly ten students at a time. We worked on their homework, and we studied for upcoming tests.

It can definitely be a struggle dealing with this age group, but it was a challenge that I enjoyed. Middle school students typically range in age from eleven to fourteen, and these are such critical ages for children. They seemed to be a blend of elementary and early high school (freshmen) students. On the one hand, each one is fighting to become more independent and to discover themselves as a person, but there is still a need for some dependence on the adults around them. Eventually I developed a strong relationship with each child that made what I was doing even more meaningful for us both. It was an important time in their lives, and I was honored to be a part of it.

Schools of Hope



By Allison Kolb

The gift of knowledge is power, and in order to ensure the success of our children in Grand Rapids, a part of that gift is the ability to read properly. The Schools of Hope program offers this support for students who are falling behind in reading in grades one through four.

The idea behind Schools of Hope is to improve children's reading skills. There are seven basic steps to the "inspect strategy" that we as prospective tutors were taught at orientation:

- Introduce the cover
- Name the title
- Share your prior knowledge
- Page through the book
- Examine picture details
- Create a purpose for reading
- Talk about challenging vocabulary words

After mastering the "inspect strategy," I felt a bit more comfortable and confident about tutoring. Not only was I going to be helping fourth grader Donasia to increase her reading proficiency, but I was also going to be a reliable adult in her life who cared enough to empower her with the gift of reading.

She read to me and I read to her. At times I did not want to take the half hour out of my day to go to Brookside Elementary for my tutoring session, but when I did, it made me feel like I served a purpose and was giving something back to the community. This sounds cheesy, but the Schools of Hope program made me feel good at the end of the day—like I had made a slight difference in someone else's life—and this became a positive feeling that I looked forward to every week.

Even though I was Donasia's tutor, she taught me the trends of fourth graders and brought me back to being her age. Here's one scenario: I was shocked when I saw an 11-year-old girl with a pacifier in her mouth and asked Donasia if that was "cool." Her look told me that I was not up on the latest and she said, "Yeah, it's like having bling or a grill. You don't know that?" No, I didn't.

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Schools of Hope

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As the weeks went by, she opened up more to me. She demonstrated the “stinky leg” dance move and made me laugh. She would giggle at my silly remarks and we clapped syllables to remember words. Once a month we would read the newspaper instead of a book. We also covered some basic words that she should know, and we played a reading game for the last five minutes every time we met.

Donasia is gone from my Wednesday afternoons now. The Schools of Hope program was my first experience in volunteering and I would definitely do it again. It made me appreciate both my mother for reading me a bedtime story every night, and my teachers for teaching me to read. They all gave me the gift of reading.

Calendar of Events

Save These Dates!

Here is a current overview of Teacher Education happenings this school year. Activities and dates are subject to change, so check campus bulletin boards and the Teacher Education website for updates.

2009

October 14	Transfer Fair
October 21	Panel Discussion on Teaching Mathematics Sponsored by the Mathematics Department 108 Cook Hall, 3-4 p.m. with light refreshments
November 4 and 10	“Hot Topics” Teacher Education Seminars
December 2	“Hot Topics” Teacher Education Seminars
December 14-17	Final Exams

2010

January	Applications for Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarships available (more information in December’s newsletter)
March 15	GRCC Foundation scholarship applications and unofficial transcripts due to Financial Aid Office; TOTS applications due to Staci in Education office
March 16	“Hot Topics” Teacher Education Seminars
April 13	Teacher Education Ice Cream Social and end-of-year celebration

2010 Dates for the Michigan Test of Basic Skills

Visit www.mttc.nesinc.com to find out more information about this exam that all education majors must take. On that website, you can find out about registration, materials to help you prepare for the test, and how to get your scores. It is very important that you to speak with your transfer school to find out their guidelines for your taking this exam.

Test Date	Regular Registration	Score Report
January 9, 2010	November 27, 2009	February 5, 2010
April 17, 2010	March 5, 2010	May 14, 2010
July 10, 2010	May 28, 2010	August 6, 2010

teacher EDUCATION

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