

SOE Weekly Newsletter

6/20/14

From the Dean: Our loyal benefactor, Joan Gerling, sent another \$40,000 check to be used for our new building. Several additional gifts are expected within the month! Jan McM

Feedback requested:

During the summer, things are a little quieter in the SOE. During this quieter time, I am reviewing the content and future of our weekly newsletter. It would be helpful for me to know what it is that you would like to see (or not see) in the weekly newsletter:

More – reminders, due dates, highlights, news articles, jokes, etc. ?

Less – reminders, due dates, highlights, news articles, jokes, etc. ?

Please hit “reply” to give me some feedback. It will be greatly appreciated.

Catherine Gillespie, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for the School of Education

Even though it's quiet, things are still happening:

The **NCTQ** report came out this week. In case you thought that they were a reputable organization, think again. Read: [Setting the Record Straight: AACTE's Engagement on the National Council on Teacher Quality Teacher Prep Review](#) for more information.

On the heels of the NCTQ report, there was a very unfortunate op/ed piece in the Des Moines register on Thursday that you may have read. Please know that **the teacher preparation program is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the Iowa Board of Education**. We meet rigorous standards and produce excellent teachers.

The SOE leadership conference on Wednesday, June 18 at HyVee Hall, went splendidly well. **Dr. Thomas Guskey** gave a well received interactive talk on standards-based grading. Kudos to the leadership team that organized this excellent event: **Drs. Tom Buckmiller, Trent Grundmeyer, Randy Peters, and Elaine Smith-Bright**. For further reading, in case you didn't get a chance to attend or want to share with others, check out: The case against percentage grades from the September, 2013 issue of Educational Leadership: http://dumais.us/newtown/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Guskey_2013_The-Case-Against-Percentage-Grades.pdf Expect further discussion in the SOE about grading purposes and practices at the college level!

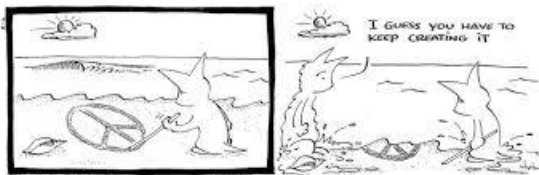
There are some new changes in **Human Resources**. **Gary Johnson** is now Director; **Venessa Macro** has been promoted to Associate Vice President. Other changes that directly affect us: There is a new procedure for the hiring of new part time adjunct professors. Details from HR shortly.

Chapter 79 (the Iowa Code that regulates Teacher Education) rules revisions are underway and possibly in place by the end of this year. There will be some slight changes, but much of it will stay the same, including the team teaching requirement for all faculty who teach methods or strategy courses. As a reminder: **If you teach a course in which you help students write or work on lesson plans, then you have to complete the team teaching requirement, which amounts to 8 hours per year.** You can bank hours too. If you haven't done so already, take some time this summer to team teach in a classroom setting while you have a chance. Consider extended calendar schools in Des Moines such as Capitol View or Moulton elementary or summer programs at North or Scavo.

Update on Praxis II score adjustments: The Dept. of Ed has just issued a letter allowing students who have taken and passed the Praxis II with the current cut score and who will graduate before January 1, 2015 to be licensed even if they do not meet the revised cut scores. This may or may not affect our students, but it is good news nonetheless.

Summer

FY2014 ends June 30, which means that **staff are using up vacation days** between now and the end of the month so as not to lose them. Please give yourself and all faculty and staff full permission to finally taking time to relax and rejuvenate this summer.



Drake doctoral program graduate in the news:

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women will award the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice to United States Magistrate **Judge Celeste Bremer** at the annual Women's Equality Day event at 10:00am on August 23, 2014, at the Iowa Historical Building, followed by a luncheon at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Judge Bremer joins an impressive list of Wilson Medal honorees that includes many familiar names and faces of men and women who have worked to support Iowa's founding principles of equality and justice: http://www.women.iowa.gov/about_women/HOF/HOF%20pages/cristine-wilson-recipients.html

Cristine Swanson Wilson was an Iowa pioneer, educated at Grinnell college, who taught school in New York before returning to Iowa. She was a tireless advocate who pushed for the establishment of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women in 1972, and was a founding member of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus and the first woman to

chair the Polk County Republican platform committee. The Cristine Wilson Medal was established in 1982 to honor lowans whose life and work illustrate their service and dedication to equality and justice.

Congratulations to Judge Bremer for this well-deserved recognition!