

Today is September 16, 2016

## Reminders

Tomorrow is #DUGoodDay so even if you haven't volunteered to do some good in the name of Drake University, make sure to DU some kind of good.

## Practicum placements

Amy Holdereid-Smith has been able to get practicum placements made and communicated to initial teacher licensure students much more quickly this semester. Amy has approximately 260 placements to make by September 30 and 125 of them were already placed as of September 14. Woo hoo.

## Become an edTPA scorer

edTPA is hosting regional and national scoring training.

For more information on becoming an official, please contact SCALE at [stanfordSCALE@stanford.edu](mailto:stanfordSCALE@stanford.edu) or Evaluation Systems at [edTPAEPPSupport@pearson.com](mailto:edTPAEPPSupport@pearson.com).

## STEM Hub news

STEM BEST Proposals are due September 23, 2016. The goal of this \$25,000 funding opportunity is to unite educators and business to redesign student work space and curriculum.

## Dean's message: Endowing our Future

Dean McMahill reports that we have received an endowment of \$413,000 from the estate of Betty Mell Wood, a former Colorado elementary educator. The gift was secured by the Arts and Sciences Senior Gift Officer Doug Lampe who traveled to her husband Clayton for many years and included Jan in the contacts and visits during the last phase before his passing. The gift is recorded as the "Dean's Excellence Fund" and starting July 31st, an annual award of approximately \$20,000 will be available to the SOE!

## Iowa Education in the News

**Why are fewer students receiving special education?**

[Mackenzie Ryan, mryan@dmreg.com](mailto:mryan@dmreg.com) 3:13 p.m.  
CDT September 13, 2016

Are Iowa's students getting the services they need?

That's the question some advocates are asking after a 50-state investigation by the [Houston Chronicle](#) shows that Iowa's decline in special education services far outpaced most other states. Iowa's rate of service fell 16 percent from 2004 to 2014, among [the largest downward shift](#) in the nation, the Chronicle found. That's twice the average rate of decline of 5.5 percent.

"It raises questions as to why that's happening," said Katie Greving, president of parent advocacy group Decoding Dyslexia. "I don't think it's because the needs of our kids are being met."

The group is seeking better services for students with dyslexia; she said many never qualify. "Our procedures make it very difficult for a smart child with a learning disability to qualify for special education."

Projects are driven by local need. Six communities will be awarded, one in the south central region. Hoover and Albia secured funding last year. Find additional information and the application at <http://www.iowastem.org/stembest/proposal>. Contact Dr. Sarah Derry at [scstemhub@drake.edu](mailto:scstemhub@drake.edu) with questions.

The Chronicle analyzed enrollment in 50 states, then compared rates of change to other states. Iowa enrolled 15.4 percent of students ages 3-21 in special education in 2004, which declined to 12.9 percent in 2014. Only six states had larger declines, with Texas topping the list with a downward shift of 26 percent, according to the National Center for Education Statistics data. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/education/2016/09/13/why-are-fewer-students-receiving-special-education/90267088/>

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