

PDS Partner News

Staying Connected with UMBC Secondary Mentor Teachers
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Fall 2009

www.umbc.edu/education



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Secondary Teacher Training: A Partnership With Local School Systems

UMBC's Department of Education offers undergraduate secondary teaching certificates and graduate degrees in over ten content areas. Preparing teacher candidates to become effective instructors and models for social justice in the classroom requires rich field experience in diverse classroom. Students have at least two opportunities to observe quality teaching and participate in classrooms before beginning their yearlong internship.

The mentor teacher has one of the strongest influences on a teacher candidate's professional preparation. Seeing a highly qualified teacher in action on a daily basis gives interns the opportunity to see how theory meets reality in the classroom. We rely on a these master teachers to guide and support our interns.

However, opening up a classroom to an intern is just one element within a Professional Development School partnership. Professional Development Schools are established relationships between a university and a local educational agency. Mandated by state regulations, teaching programs, like UMBC's, establish working relationships with county school

boards and individual schools. The university and the school system collaborate to pool their talents and resources to address school needs. A Memo of Understanding is written to guide the partnership. A Steering Committee is appointed to meet regularly to carry out the stipulated goals.

Within the university, the program director, a PDS specialist, and a university liaison work together to create professional development opportunities that can be brought to the partner schools. UMBC also identifies university-based opportunities available to both teachers and students. Occasionally, the PDS program will distribute free tickets for sporting and cultural events, as well as highlight upcoming tours and lectures.

At the school level, the principal or assistant principal, the school-based liaison, and the mentor teachers work together to provide meaningful field experiences to the interns. They also identify areas of need, such as math tutoring help, that UMBC may be able to bring to the school.

This collaboration is a win-win situation for all members of the university and the schools.

UMBC Preparing for Re-Accreditation Visit

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) is a non-profit, non-governmental accrediting agency that recognizes teacher education programs that meet national professional standards. UMBC's Department of Education has offered NCATE

accredited teacher training in early education, elementary, secondary, and ESOL programs for over 10 years.
Continued on page 2.

NCATE
The Standard of Excellence
in Teacher Preparation



And the Mentor Survey Says . . .

At the end of each school year, UMBC's Secondary Education Department asks mentor teachers to complete a program evaluation. This feedback helps UMBC administrators identify areas for improvement within our secondary internship program.

Seventy-three percent of our 41 secondary mentors returned their 2008-09 survey. Out of a 4-point scale, with "1" indicating strongly dissatisfied and "4" as strongly satisfied, mentors reported an average satisfaction of 3.29 with their overall mentoring experience. One mentor captured the essence of the experience when she shared, "I chose to mentor because I feel it is important to share my knowledge and expertise with others. It also energizes me and gives me a new perspective on ways of

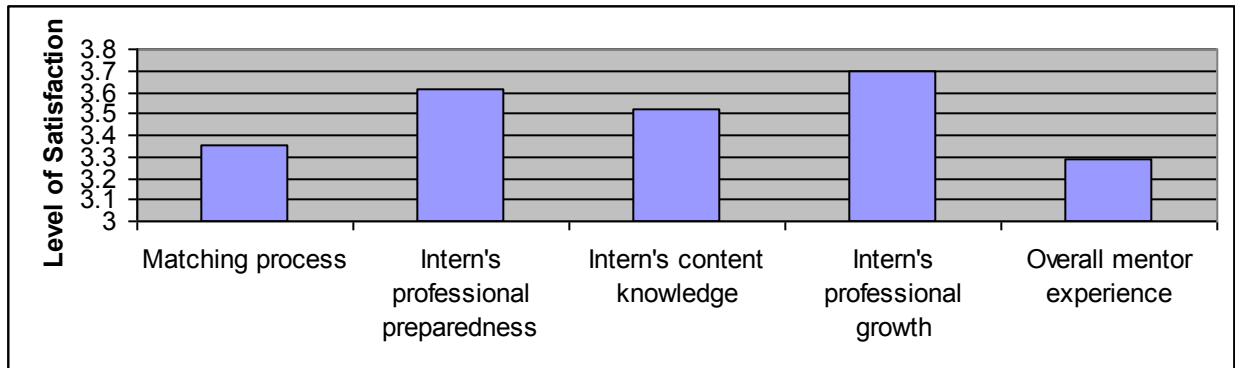
"I loved stepping out of the spotlight and being a student at times as the intern took center stage."

~ Mentor survey response

teaching." While mentors were less than satisfied with the ease of using the TK20 online assessment system (2.74 average response), they reported a 3.36 level of satisfaction with the technical support they received from UMBC staff.

Knowing that a successful PDS partnership lies in good communication skills that support collaboration, UMBC took note of mentors' request for better contact from university staff. Throughout the

year, we hope that the implemented changes will better support the teachers who provide the backbone to our intern's experience in the classroom.



Re-Accreditation *Continued from page 1*

As a performance-based accreditation system, NCATE requires universities to provide evidence that teacher candidates know their subject matter as well as how to be an effective teacher. UMBC will undergo an accreditation review in 2011. NCATE reviewers will examine UMBC's work towards addressing and creating learning communities; accountability and quality assurance; collaboration with partner schools; diversity and equality; and structures, resources, and roles.

University liaisons, in cooperation with school-based liaisons maintain artifact bins at each partner school. These file bins store documents that

identify and highlight activities coordinated between UMBC and the school. Your school's liaisons will let you know the exact location of artifact bins for your PDS.

Mentor teachers and school-based personnel assist in the accreditation process by helping to gather evidence that demonstrates leading competencies for each of these standards. The list to the right identifies documents that should be maintained in each school's artifact bins. When in doubt, PDS members should file a document to support the accreditation review. We want to share the stories of our activities and accomplishments.

Artifact Bins

The following items should be collected and collated each month for re-accreditation accountability.

- Steering committee minutes
- Progress reports on the partnership
- PDS policy statements
- PDS handbooks
- Outcome data for all students
- Family comments on the PDS
- Analysis of intern accomplishments
- Records of intern observations
- Practitioner journals
- Reports from inquiry activities
- Newspaper reports on the partnership
- School improvement plans
- Self-study reports
- Assessment of PD activities

UMBC PDS Mentor Teacher Named Baltimore City Teacher of the Year

On May 5, 2009, UMBC intern Bhumika Dalwadi entered her biology classroom at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute to wrap up her Phase II internship. Just as class was getting under way, City Schools CEO Andrés Alonso, principal Dr. Barney Wilson, and numerous dignitaries entered the room. Bearing balloons, gifts, and television cameras, the surprise visitors came to announce that Bhumika's mentor teacher, Nicholas Greer, had just been named Baltimore City Teacher of the Year.



Baltimore City Teacher of the Year and UMBC mentor Nicholas Greer with City Schools CEO Andrés Alonso. *Photo courtesy Baltimore Sun*

Bhumika, now a first year teacher at Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County, was not at all surprised when her mentor was awarded teacher of the year.

"He is involved in every aspect of school life. All the students love him. He pushes them to do more than they may have wanted to do and they succeed. I would be happy to be half the teacher he is," said Bhumika.

"Every parent would love to have [Nick Greer] as the teacher for their child," said Wilson, who nominated Greer. "His classroom is a 'club'—both a classroom and a lab in one. It is a classroom and

a science lab, but more importantly it's a learning lab. It's really where traditional classroom theory meets practice. It's about going beyond traditional lecturing to interactive and collaborative learning."

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and a teacher at Poly since 2002, Greer, 29, leads classes in Ingenuity Biology, Honors Biology and Ingenuity Science and Computers. He also coaches boys soccer at Poly; chairs Poly's School Family Council; and is a member of the international honor society Pi Lambda Theta.

Call for Submissions Oct. 15, 2009 Deadline

The National Association for Professional Development Schools and University of South Carolina invite teachers to submit presentation proposals for their March 10-14, 2010 PDS Conference in Miami FL.

NAPDS seeks speakers on the topics relating to PDS Impact on Teacher Candidates, Current Educators, and P-12 Students. Current teacher candidates also have the opportunity to submit proposals for the poster presentation session.

Interested? Speak with your school-based liaison to see if county or UMBC funds are available to assist with your travel costs to this conference.

For more information, visit :
www.ed.sc.edu/pds/be_a_presenter.htm

Kudos

The following UMBC Secondary Interns received a variety of academic achievements and recognitions at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. Congratulations on a job well done in working towards becoming experts in your content area.

Megan Cramer—Induction into the Phi Kappa Phi academic excellence and service honor society; and Golden Key International Honor Society for academic achievement

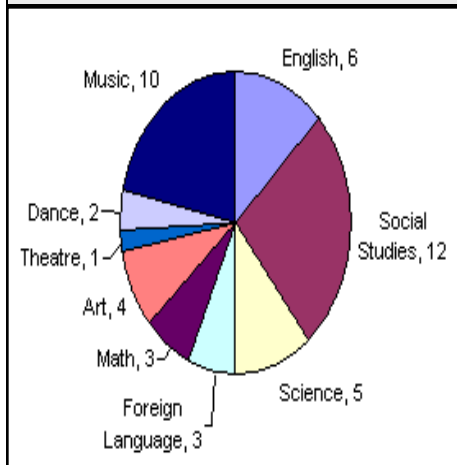
Melinda Gosselin— Golden Key International Honor Society for academic achievement

Leilla Kenney— Golden Key International Honor Society for academic achievement

Tania Knight—Outstanding Senior in Choreography

Michael Merchant—Induction into the Kappa Theta Epsilon cooperative education honor society

Joshua Michael—Truman Scholarship



2009 2010 Interns At a Glance

UMBC's Secondary Program will place 44 interns at 20 schools in nine separate content areas this Fall. Social studies and music students comprise almost half the intern pool, with dance, theatre, Latin, and Spanish rounding out this year's cohort.



Teacher Resource Box

David Oliver Relin *Three Cups of Tea*

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009
7:00pm

University Center Ballroom
Lecture ~ Reception ~ Book Signing

Join the UMBC community as we welcome David Oliver Relin as he speaks about his adventures in Pakistan and Afghanistan where he was transformed from his early years as a drifter to a man committed to building schools that serve remote villages.

Target Field Trip Grants

Target Stores will award 5,000 field trip grants of \$800 for this coming school year. Art and Early Reading grants are also available.

Apply online. www.target.com/teachers
Deadline: Nov. 3, 2009

Donor Matching

Match your classroom wish list with resources that businesses are looking to give away.

Register your wish list online.
www.iloveschools.com

Let Us Hear From You

Tell us about Action Research in your classroom.

- What classroom issue will your intern explore?
- How might this project improve student learning in your classroom?

Submit your comments to alessa@umbc.edu. We'll highlight the most exciting Action Research projects in our Winter newsletter.

Math Circles at UMBC

Wednesday, September 9, 2009 6:30—7:30pm
Public Policy Building, Room 107

High school math students are invited to join UMBC for a FREE talk on Coding Theory and how it relates to bar codes, hard drives and interstellar messaging.

Attend Math Circle lectures every 2nd Wednesday of the month. www.mathcircles.org or BAMathCircle@gmail.com for more info.

Professional Development Schools Contact List

	Administration	School-Based Liaison	University Liaison
Digital Harbor High School, Baltimore City	Brian Eyer Principal	Dr. Andrea Bowden Alisha Sparks	Russell Hopewell tlexus8@verizon.net
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Baltimore City	Dr. Barney Wilson Principal	Matt Woolston	Cynthia Jordan cinsilk@comcast.net
Windsor Mill Middle School, Baltimore County	Deborah Phelps Principal	Mikey Guarraia	Marilyn MacDonald Merle2225@comcast.net
Mt. Hebron High School, Howard County	Scott Ruehl Principal	Mike Goreleski Sarah Taggett	Cynthia Jordan cinsilk@comcast.net
Meade Middle School, Anne Arundel County	Bill Goodman Principal	Kelly Abernathy	Dennis Cole dcolesr@umbc.edu
Meade High School, Anne Arundel County	Daryl Kennedy Principal	Alisia Muir	Dennis Cole dcolesr@umbc.edu