



August 2018

Educational Studies Department

TEACHER EDUCATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

As many of you are aware, the IWU Teacher Education Program has been a model of excellence for many years. We were the first licensure program in the Central Illinois area to strongly encourage and often require all students to complete intensive clinical experiences in a single setting tied directly to their student teaching during the spring and then fall of their junior and senior years. We were the first program to require intensive scholarly reflection after completion of one's student teaching, leading to a public presentation of their work at a research conference, and have been one of a few programs to offer all candidates the opportunity to student teach in Chicago public schools. For the past three years, we have been part of a unique partnership with the John F. Kennedy Middle School in Queretaro, Mexico that allows our students to work with experienced teachers who are conversant with the International Baccalaureate curriculum. We feel proud of our ability to work with some extremely talented individuals who will be the educational leaders of the future.

For over two decades, the Illinois Wesleyan University Teacher Education Program has been committed to preparing candidates who want to enter the profession in order to make a difference in children's lives as reiterated through our social justice mission. Your assistance in helping under graduates assume the professional responsibilities that will allow them to contribute to such needed educational reform is invaluable, and it is in part because of your efforts, that we have been able to be so successful.



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IMPORTANT INFO

The Student Teaching Handbook, along with midterm and final conference forms, and other relevant forms for elementary and secondary student teachers, cooperating teachers, and supervisors are available on the IWU Educational Studies website at www.iwu.edu/edstudies/teachers. Please direct questions on how to use the forms to your student teacher's IWU supervisor.



ANNUAL STUDENT TEACHING SYMPOSIUM

As teacher-scholars for social justice, teacher candidates actively engage in leading professional development events on campus. In 2016, students began to sponsor a Student Teaching Symposium, where they led interactive session curriculum, assessment, and pedagogy topics (e.g. building teacher-student relationships, classroom management, standard-based grading, conducting IEPs, etc.) This annual event serves as a professional development opportunity for teacher candidates to learn from their peers. The 2016 and 2017 Student Teaching Symposium programs can be accessed at: <https://sites.google.com/site/learnteachtech/home/>

WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

NOTEWORTHY NEWS FROM 2017-18

- ◆ Alison Henry and Maddie Bolinger completed a successful internship at the JFK Middle School in Queretaro, Mexico.
- ◆ Linh Le, receiving funding from the IWU Fund for Human Rights, Sustainability, and Social Justice, and the Freeman Foundation, completed a summer internship in Vietnam where she worked with the Law and Policy of Sustainable Development Research Center.
- ◆ Yesenia Martinez Calderon, Lauren Zaroni, and Crystal Valadez attended the “Cultivating the Scholar/Activist: Trans-disciplinary Pathways to Racial Justice Conference held at Vanderbilt University on November 9th-10th, 2017.
- ◆ Professor Maggie Evans, Yesenia Martinez Calderon and Maxwell Crowninshield, presented “Traits and Teaching Strategies of Inclusive Professors” at the 14th Annual International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry on May 16th-19th in 2018 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- ◆ Dr. Pennie Gray continues her research on Restorative Practices and will be completing a study that follows first-year teachers into their classrooms to explore their decision-making process regarding classroom management strategies. She has also been collaborating with local educators regarding the implementation of Restorative Practices in our community’s schools. Dr. Gray’s work in youth leadership continues as she serves on the steering committee for Youth Global Citizen, and she is completing a study on the reading habits of college students for an upcoming article.
- ◆ Jennifer Crider continues to develop collaborative relationships with area school administrators and teachers in order to provide our IWU students with authentic classroom experience in instruction, classroom management, student relationships, and issues of social justice.
- ◆ Professor Irv Epstein delivered conference presentations at the Annual meeting of the *Comparative and International Education Society* in March in Mexico City and chaired two panels at the Scholars at Risk Global Congress in Berlin, in April, 2018.
- ◆ We celebrated our 11th Annual Inquiries into Teaching and Learning Research Conference last April. Our students’ capstone research projects published via Digital Commons are included in the top ten most downloaded IWU undergraduate research projects since 2008. We also conducted our second Annual Student Teaching Symposium. Our next symposium is scheduled for January 2018.



TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

As you most likely know, all student teachers in Illinois must complete the edTPA (Educational Teacher Performance Assessment) in order to be licensed. This portfolio assessment requires student teachers to articulate in writing their thought process as they plan a series of lessons and then videotape the implementation of those lessons. Following the lessons, student teachers must analyze student data to determine how well students understood the content and then reteach the content to students who did not understand it during the initial lessons. Student teachers document their findings through a series of written tasks. This entire portfolio is then submitted to an outside company for assessment.

All student teachers will distribute to parents and guardians a letter explaining the edTPA and asking for permission to include students in the videotaping. Student teachers will also seek parent and guardian permission to use student work to analyze the effectiveness of their teaching.

As a cooperating teacher, we appreciate your support of the student teachers as they complete this extensive portfolio. Specific support might involve the following: talking through the lessons with the student teacher; collaborating to identify specific needs of students; and assisting with videotaping of the lessons. Because cooperating teachers and university personnel are limited in the amount and type of support they are allowed to offer, we ask that you not proofread the student teachers' edTPA materials or give advice about which video clips to submit to edTPA scorers. Please contact the student teaching university supervisor if you have any questions about the kinds of support you may offer. More information about the edTPA can be found here: www.edtpa.com.

TEACHER EDUCATION CURRICULAR CHANGES

The Educational Studies faculty implemented a number of changes in the teacher education program, creating an important new course, **Instructional Planning, Assessment, and Safe Learning Environments** for our elementary and secondary teacher education candidates. Other new courses include a Mathematics, Science, and Technology course, a curriculum and pedagogy course and a course exploring inquiry and creativity, all for elementary education teacher education candidates.

JOHN WESLEY POWELL STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

All elementary and secondary student teachers engage in a systematic and focused self-study of their practice as student teachers. During the fall they frame their study, obtain parental consents, and collect their data, which includes mostly reflective field notes and samples of student work. In the spring they engage in literature review, data analysis and the writing of their reports. By embedding self-study in student teaching, IWU student teachers have a supported professional development experience. Self-study has the potential to improve one's teaching practice and simultaneously improve students' learning. We encourage cooperating teachers to be involved in student teachers' self-studies. We hope to see you at our Teaching and Learning Inquiry Conference next April when our current student teachers will present their self-studies. For more information about the conference, check out the video on our webpage www.iwu.edu/edstudies/activities

**MEET
DONNA
HAAS**



Donna Haas began her career as a preschool teacher and an in home daycare provider for twelve years. She also has experience as a Title One teaching assistant and office administrator.

Prior to joining the Illinois Wesleyan staff, Donna worked for the Admissions office at Eureka College as a receptionist, communications management specialist, and campus visit coordinator. She started her IWU career as the Receptionist/Visit Coordinator in the Admissions office.

In her current role as an Administrative Specialist for the Educational Studies Department, Donna looks forward to supporting the future teachers, cooperating teachers, faculty, and staff. She is excited to be in a position that allows her to combine her passion for teaching and office administration! The highlight of her first couple of months in her new role has been making her office her own space by decorating it with treasures found at the nearby thrift store.

Donna is married to Ray and has two adult sons that she is extremely proud of. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, eating out, reading, baking cookies, gardening, and playing games. She is also the CFO for her husband's handyman business and serves at her church.

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

Evan Bruce Morgan arrived in this world on June 6th 2018. His mom, Professor Maggie Evans is doing very well and will be back with us in the spring of 2018.

Troy Shriver arrived in this world on June 3rd, 2018. His mom, MacKenzie is also doing very well and has decided to be a stay at home mom.

Professor Drew Dahan accepted a position teaching music at Highland Park High School.

Donna Haas joined the Department in May as Administrative Specialist IV.

Dr. John Hamilton joins the School of Music faculty as Director of the Music Education Program.

Jen Crider, David Hirst, Deborah Van Hoorn, Deanne Bryant, Amanda Gee, and Irv Epstein will also continue to serve as university student teaching supervisors.

IWU AFFILIATE CARD FOR COOP TEACHERS

Discount Tickets to McPherson Theatre events.

The schedule is available at:

www.iwu.edu/theatre

Use of weight/cardio room and pool at Shirk. For hours:

www.iwu.edu/wellness/aboutus/shirkhours

Reduced rates for wellness classes.

The schedule is available at:

www.iwu.edu/wellness

20% off Bookstore items (excluding textbooks)

If you need an ID card, email the IWU Campus Safety

Office at campus-safety@iwu.edu or visit their office located on the main floor of the Memorial Center.

The office is open Monday– Friday 8:00-4:30.

