

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NEWS

FALL ★ 2015



THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

DR. JAIME R. GARZA, CHAIRMAN | SAN ANTONIO

ROSSANNA SALAZAR, VICE CHAIRMAN | AUSTIN

VERONICA MUZQUIZ EDWARDS, SAN ANTONIO

DAVID MONTAGNE, BEAUMONT

VERNON REASER III, BELLAIRE

WILLIAM F. SCOTT, NEDERLAND

DONNA WILLIAMS, ARLINGTON

SPENCER COPELAND, STUDENT REGENT | HUNTSVILLE

DR. BRIAN MCCALL, CHANCELLOR

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Our Mission

As a premier professional school, Texas State University's College of Education is dedicated to enhancing human potential for all through excellent teaching, relevant scholarship, and community engagement.

We will be excellent in evidence-based practice, scholarship and teaching.

We will be relevant to the needs of the people we serve.

We will be engaged in public and professional communities.

**Stay Connected.
Stay Informed.
Achieve Excellence.**



@TXSTCOE



/TXSTCOE

education.txstate.edu

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Friends,

When this year began, we made changes to our leadership team to take the College of Education to the next level and we are making great progress. Our new Associate Dean for Teacher

Education and Academic Affairs, Dr. Patrice Werner, is diligently working to increase our influence and leadership in teacher education regionally and nationally. Our Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has grown to a team of four, assisting faculty and students in new research endeavors. As always, we continue to pursue excellence, relevance, and engagement in all that we do.

Enjoy this edition of the newsletter and see the astonishing work our faculty, students, and alumni continue to produce. To our alumni and students, we thank you for your continued support and representation of the College of Education; please feel free to take the insert and hang it with pride in your classrooms, offices, or homes.

As we continue to grow in research and community partnerships, we invite you to join our journey in the most up-to-date fashion by following us on our new Twitter and Facebook accounts as well as touring our redesigned website where you will find information regarding all of our departments and programs. For those interested in learning more about the stories included in this issue, you will find expanded coverage on our blog.

We welcome your suggestions and comments as you read what's in our newsletter and, indeed, at any time.

Best,
Stan Carpenter, Dean
College of Education

Welcome New Staff

Dr. Afi Y. Wiggins
Senior Research Analyst
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Agustin Garcia
Academic Advisor I
Advising Center

Alejandra "Alex" Lengefeld
Research Coordinator
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Naomi Wilson
Admin III
Curriculum & Instruction

Noel Fuller
Academic Advisor I
Advising Center

Philip Gonzales
Admin II
Advising Center

Rachel Phipps
Admin III
Office of Educator Preparation

Promotions

Stephanie Long
Certification Officer
Office of Educator Preparation

This information is available in alternate format upon request from the Office of Disability Services.

University Honors Milestone



The 20th Anniversary of the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award (TRMACBA) was celebrated at the beginning of the semester with a two-day celebration.

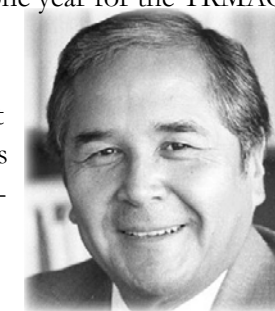
On the first day, authors, illustrators, and educators were gathered at Texas State University for the TRMACBA Conference, which featured keynote speakers, performers and panelists. Throughout the conference, speakers highlighted the legacy of Dr. Tomás Rivera, including morning keynote speaker Maria del Rosario (Rosie) Castro who shared: "[he was] a leader, an administrator, a kind, gentle, man." Others highlighted the significance of the award in their careers: "Of all the awards that my children's books have received, the Tomás Rivera Children's Book Award is the most precious," said 1997 winner Carmen Lomas Garza. Discussions went past Dr. Rivera and the TRMACBA, though, often circling around the theme of diversity in current literature and what it means to be represented. Juan Felipe Herrera, afternoon keynote speaker, and the 21st United States Poet Laureate—the first Mexican American to hold the position—shared his view and call to action: "This is our breakout moment; we're no longer on the outside looking in." Though this was a hot topic of discussion, many were just excited for the opportunity to share and engage with their peers.

With a lighter agenda, but just as much excitement, Saturday's Literature fair kicked

off with a city-wide book parade featuring the TRMACBA winners. The San Marcos Public Library and Activity Center hosted the community as they participated in fun family-friendly activities. To top it off, families received free books, and sought autographs from the TRMACBA authors and illustrators.

Most notably, the 20th Anniversary is a cornerstone event of the 2015-2016 Common Experience at Texas State. The Common Experience is a yearlong initiative that cultivates a conversation on a theme, enhancing student participation and fostering a sense of community throughout the university and beyond. This year's theme, "Bridged Through Stories: Shared Heritage of the United States and Mexico, an Homage to Dr. Tomás Rivera," includes a common reading of Rivera's landmark novel, *...y no se lo trago la tierra* (...and the earth did not devour him), by all first-year students in University Seminar, as well as many exciting events and activities that are open to the public.

This is a milestone year for the TRMACBA, and with the additional recognition and support of Texas State, it is certain that Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Tomás Rivera would be proud.



HALL OF FAMERS



Michelle Hamilton, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Dept. of HHP
Director, Center for P-16 Initiatives

Inducted into San Marcos Women's Hall of Fame

Award: Honor local women who have gone above and beyond by volunteering in multiple areas of service, meeting the needs of the community, demonstrating initiative, and effecting positive change.

Dr. Hamilton is convinced that young readers become leaders—and she won't be satisfied until every child in Hays County has the opportunity to realize that dream.



Jovita Ross-Gordon, Ph.D.
Professor, Dept. of CLAS

Inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame—Scholar category

Award: Honor individuals who have made distinguished contributions to the field of adult and continuing education.

In her nearly 30 years of research and scholarly writing, Dr. Ross-Gordon has raised important questions about non-traditional learners in higher education settings for both researchers and practitioners.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

University Honors Milestone	3	Study Abroad Groups	5
ORSP Expands to Support Research	3	COE Programs Awarded in Innovation	6
Hall of Famers	3	New AEL Program	6
Gabriel Fife's International Research Brings Martial Arts to New Venue.....	4	KDP Earns Fifth Consecutive Award.....	6
100K Strong-Gabriela Mistral Scholars Visit Chile for Research in Education	5	CTWP Songwriters	7
Italy Faculty Exchange Program	5	ESL Program From Theory to Practice in the San Marcos Community.....	6-7

★Pull-Out Insert: Rising Stars, Research & Grants★

ORSP EXPANDS TO SUPPORT RESEARCH

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is now staffed to support faculty and students in all aspects of scholarly productivity, including research, securing grants, and preparing manuscripts. New staff members Dr. Afi Y. Wiggins will support research design and analysis, and Alex Lengefeld will assist with budget development and grant administration. "It's an exciting time in the College," said Associate Dean Lisa K. Lloyd. "We've received a number of high-profile grants, including the University's largest award ever, and our faculty and students are increasingly published in prestigious journals. Our team is ready to build on that success by supporting the research and scholarship efforts of our faculty and students." More information about the ORSP team can be found on education.txstate.edu/orsp/.





Gabriel Fife's International Research Brings Martial Arts to a New Venue

When people hear martial arts, icons such as Bruce Lee and Chuck Norris performing high-rounded kicks come to mind. But what about non-traditional athletes? Through his research, assistant professor Gabriel Fife is helping to bring martial arts to diversified groups.

Over the past few years, the World Taekwondo Federation has been working to develop the sport for people with various disabilities, including those with physical and intellectual ones.

For the past two years, Fife has been tracking injuries through an injury surveillance program at Para-Taekwondo competitions—most recently at the 2015 World Para-Taekwondo Championship in Samsun, Turkey. Para-Taekwondo competitions are competitions among those with physical disabilities such as limb injuries and amputations. The research collected from the program helps Fife understand how to better prevent debilitating injuries caused from contact sports like Taekwondo. “As these athletes already work against a great deal of adversity, my colleagues and I are aiming to catch injuries that post a high risk of additional disability and recommend prevention programs to uphold their health,” said Fife.

Additionally Fife's research consists of evidence-based classification for full-contact sparring and classification research for people of different intellectual impairments. Developing classifications between both populations helps ensure fair competition. “As you can imagine, there are various people who come to compete at these events and they come with a whole bunch of different disabilities,” said Fife. “Not all physical impairments are the same and our hope is to develop a methodology

that allows for the fair grouping of athletes so they can compete against athletes with similar disabilities as themselves.” Fife was able to conduct further work on classifications in Ecuador at the 2015 INAS Global Games earlier this fall.

Along with his colleagues, Fife presented all of his research at the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) VISTA Conference held in Girona, Spain. The IPC serves to organize and include people with disabilities of all backgrounds into athletic competitions around the world. Now, thanks to the research from Fife and his colleagues', one new sport—Para-Taekwondo—will be added to an important and high-profile competition: the 2020 Paralympic Games.

Through these achievements, it is with no surprise that in September Fife received special recognition by the World Taekwondo Federation for all of his research advancing the sport of Taekwondo to *all* athletes.

Photographed Above

Left: Fife receives recognition by the World Taekwondo Federation for his research that was, in part, responsible for adding the sport of Taekwondo to the 2020 Paralympic Games.

Right-Top: Darren Gray (medical classifier), Gabe Fife and Derek Romano (technical classifier) at the World Championships in Samsun, Turkey.

Right-Bottom: Fife working with INAS Global Games athletes in Ecuador.

100K Strong-Gabriela Mistral Scholars Visit Chile for Research in Education

Earlier this fall, the *Leadership and Educational Action Resource Network: Binational Graduate Student Collaboration for Educational Improvement in Chile* project (Project LEARN-Chile) announced 18 Ph.D. in Education students as recipients of the 100K Strong-Gabriela Mistral Scholars award.

After participating in an extensive seminar on international educational research in Chile, the scholars visited the country in November for fieldwork research. They joined Chilean partner organizations to understand multiple forms of public education in Chile and hosted an open conference entitled *Transformación Social y Justicia en Educación: Ciudadan@s Cambiando el Mundo (Social Transformation and Justice in Education: Citizens Changing the World)*. The research project and conference were conducted in collaboration with Universidad Alberto Hurtado in Santiago de Chile and received professional development support from the Global Learning division at Dell and Dale Carnegie-Austin.

Project LEARN-Chile is funded by the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Grant. The project has also developed a partnership with the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. to support the scholars' research. “The Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. is honored to collaborate in the 100K Strong-Gabriela Mistral Scholars project with Texas State University and all partners,” said Gloria Garafulich-Grabois, Director of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation. “This important initiative, under the leadership of Dr. Michael O'Malley and Tanya Long, highlights the importance that education and outreach have for all individuals



See more with #Learn_Chile

and the great impact not only for the individual but in the community at large.”

For more information visit: www.projectlearn.wp.txstate.edu.

Ciao Dr. Coryell Italy Faculty Exchange Program

Dr. Joellen Coryell—associate professor in the Adult, Professional, and Community Education Ph.D. program in the CLAS department—has been invited to serve as a visiting professor at Italy's Università degli Studi di Padova (University of Padua) during November and December. Founded in 1222, the Università degli Studi di Padova is one of the most prestigious and oldest universities in Europe.

Dr. Coryell is working with Italian colleagues and students in the Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Pedagogy, and Applied Psychology teaching a graduate course in Organizational Culture and Teaching and Learning Methods as well as conducting workshops with adult education doctoral students. She is also collaborating on research projects, including a three-year national investigation expected to result in programs for higher education to promote personalized learning, build on-the-job competencies, and value talents to create new work opportunities. These positive strategies in Italian higher education are critical elements to support young adults during an employment emergency in response to the current socio-economic crisis.

Texas State University has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Università degli Studi di Padova which establishes faculty and student exchanges and collaborative research endeavors.



ABROAD IN SPAIN

The Student Affairs in Higher Education program offered its first international experience for students this fall. Eight SAHE students attended the International Leadership Association's Annual Conference in Barcelona, Spain.



ABROAD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Over the summer, Dr. David Wiley and his study abroad students visited health promotion programs in the United Kingdom.



NEW AEL PROGRAM

Over 80 Texas State graduate students participated in the second of four Saturday sessions to earn AEL Certification (Advancing Educational Leadership—required for principal certification) on November 13th at Region 13 Service Center. Texas State University Supervisors joined the graduate students, who are currently completing a yearlong internship, for the Saturday training. Intern Supervisors facilitated table discussions and participated fully in the professional development activities that were led by Dr. Trinidad San Miguel and Dr. Lori Einfalt. The conference room was filled with the buzz of ideas being exchanged and concepts being explored throughout the day.

As reported on the ESC 13 website, the development of the new AEL curriculum brought together education stakeholders from across Texas, representing universities, education service centers, educator preparation programs, and district leadership, to provide input for key concepts within the content and training design. Texas State University students will be among the first in the state to complete the new AEL program and earn certification in Advancing Educational Leadership.

COE Programs Awarded in Innovation

The Texas State University **Teacher Fellows Program** was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE) Innovation in Teacher Education Award in October.

The Innovation in Teacher Education Award was established to recognize and honor outstanding teacher education programs that have developed innovative approaches to teacher preparation.

The mission of the Texas State Teacher Fellows Program is to provide a supportive professional community for beginning teachers. Through school/university partnerships, the program facilitates on-going professional development for new and experienced teachers that results in effective teaching and enhanced student learning.

“I am proud that the Teacher Fellows Program has provided quality mentoring and induction support to over 400 beginning teachers since the program’s inception in 1994,” said Barbara Davis, co-director of the Teacher Fellows Program. “Many of the program graduates have remained in the teaching profession. They serve as leaders both within and beyond their classrooms and schools. I am thankful to the mentors and program faculty who work tirelessly to support these novice educators in their formative years.”

The American Association of Adult and Continuing Education’s Commission of Professors of Adult Education (CPAE) has selected the **Master of Arts in Adult Education program** (in the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology) as the recipient of the 2015 CPAE Curriculum Innovation Award.

This award recognizes innovative approaches to the education of adult educators. In the announcement email, the committee stated, “We received several nomination packages this year, and all were impressive. Despite the exemplary competition, Texas State’s Master of Arts in Adult Education distinguished itself as a comprehensive program for training adult educators for positions across the scope of the field. Congratulations on this significant achievement!”

The award will be bestowed at the annual CPAE business meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

KDP Earns Fifth Consecutive Award

The local chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), International Honor Society in Education, received its fifth consecutive Achieving Chapter Excellence (ACE) Award during the organization’s international conference in Orlando, Florida. Each biennium, KDP recognizes university chapters that provide outstanding programming to its members and community—only 25 of 625 chapters received the ACE Award this year.

The chapter was evaluated on professional development meetings, service and community outreach projects, communications with members, recruitment efforts, initiation ceremonies, officer elections and leadership development, and alumni relations.

“Receiving this award is a huge honor,” said Sally Fox, the chapter’s co-president and a senior at Texas State University. “The KDP officers worked very hard planning professional development meetings that would benefit all members in their future careers as teachers. We also hosted helpful community service events that brought together Texas State students and children in the surrounding school dis-

tricts of San Marcos, Hays, Lockhart, and Round Rock.”

“The ACE Award is the culmination of many hours of hard work by the chapter officers and sponsors,” said Jasmine Page, the chapter’s other co-president and a senior at Texas State. “Participating in Kappa Delta Pi has given me opportunities to develop my leadership skills, learn useful information for my career, and build lasting friendships with other educators.”

“The chapter at Texas State University is one of a handful of chapters across the country to receive this esteemed award,” said Karen DeLawter, a regional representative for the organization. “The selection committee was impressed that the members gave their time and talents to strengthen their teaching practices and build strong partnerships with the local community.”

Kappa Delta Pi is an honor society and professional organization for pre- and in-service teachers that recognizes academic excellence and provides ongoing professional development to its members. The organization currently has more than 35,000 members and 625 chapters worldwide. Well-known KDP members include Albert Einstein, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jean Piaget, and George Washington Carver. The Eta Zeta Chapter at Texas State University was chartered in 1951 and currently has more than 350 active members. C&I Professor Nathan Bond and C&I Senior Lecturer Jessica Ligon serve as faculty sponsors.

CTWP SONGWRITERS

This summer the Central Texas Writing Project partnered with the Cheatham Street Music Foundation to host the Young Songwriters’ Camp 2015 at San Marcos’ legendary Cheatham Street Warehouse. The camp hosted songwriters ages 11-16, varying in musical backgrounds and ability levels.

Each day featured established songwriters from around the Texas Hill Country music scene, including Foscoe Jones, Robyn Ludwick, Pake Rossi, Josh Dodds, Kathleen O’Keefe, HalleyAnna, Missoula Slim, Sterling Finlay, and Jason Bednorz who all gave their time and talents free of charge. Among the various topics covered in the sessions were starting/finding inspiration; writing during writer’s block; legal issues in music publication; the basics of studio recording; and live performance.

The week-long camp culminated with performances of original songs by the young writers at Cheatham Street Warehouse. Samantha Lee—a returning 2012 camper—was asked the next day to contribute vocals on a track recorded by Cody Young. Lee is working on her first album while astonishingly still attending high school.

In planning for 2016, the foundation established two separate songwriters scholarships; one is in memory of local songwriter and Texas State Philosophy teaching assistant Victor Holk, who passed away earlier this year.

(First Row, left to right): Faye Snodgrass, Lucinda Medina, Charis Butler, Jeanne Wehde, Beth Wilkins
(Second Row, left to right): Jessica Ligon, Emily Wise, Alex Hodge-Ratliff, Nathan Bond
(Third Row, left to right): Allison Auth, Kayleigh Salinas, Teena Malina, Amy Harper
(Fourth Row, left to right): Rebecca Currey, Jasmine Page, Amanda Golian, Sally Fox
Not pictured: Bethany Gossett and Kelsey Kuehler



★ ESL PROGRAMS | FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE IN THE SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY

Students taking ESL courses are serving as volunteers for a pilot program providing an hour-long mentoring session with young children attending the PODER Center in San Marcos. The *Bobcat Tutors* arrive at the center between 4pm and 6pm to work with local K-8 children. The young students determine their agenda, which varies from homework help, reading together, or escaping with the act of play. Whatever their needs for the day, they know their *Bobcat Tutor* is there to help.

Working with a culturally diverse group, whose first language may not be English and who range in socio-economic status, allows Texas State students to gain experience working with children of various backgrounds while also giving them the opportunity to take their classroom theories and put them into practice. Lecturers Blanca Loya and Christopher Milk hope to expand the program and reach all Section 8 Housing Centers to provide the services necessary to help young children excel in their education while providing real-world experience to Texas State students.

On November 5, Adult Education MA students enrolled in *Applied Linguistics for ESL Teachers of Adults* finalized a two-month long letter exchange project by meeting their pen pal partners at a local restaurant. The project assisted adults enrolled in English as a second language (ESL) courses at The Kyle Learning Center to develop their writing skills. In turn, the graduate students gained knowledge about how community adult education works and were able to study language production and discourse analysis using authentic text. The pen pals reunion was successful and the conversation was nonstop while the two groups of learners met each other and negotiated meaning verbally after two months of writing to a “stranger.” The ESL learners, Angi Mudd—coordinator of Adult Ed. Programs—and teachers from The Kyle Learning Center were thankful and pleased about the results of the partnership with Texas State graduate students and faculty. The implementation of the project reflects Dr. Clarena Larrotta’s efforts to assist students in *Applied Linguistics* to clearly establish connections between theory and practice.



ALUMNA: TX TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), which facilitates the Texas Teacher of the Year program, has named Revathi Balakrishnan, a talented and gifted specialist in Round Rock ISD, the 2016 Elementary Teacher of the Year. Balakrishnan was chosen to represent Texas in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

“Creating a workforce that can adapt itself to ever-changing workplace conditions calls for innovative approaches, and teachers, administrators and government officials who are visionaries,” said Balakrishnan. “Every child is a unique individual, depending on all of us to provide them with a comprehensive education that will make them competitive in the global workplace. And we owe them nothing less.”

Balakrishnan, who has taught for 10 years, is a second-career educator, having first spent 12 years as a systems analyst. She said she hopes the recognition she has received as a campus, district, region, and now Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year, will inspire others to join the teaching profession, which she has described as complex but satisfying.

“I hope that my rewarding experiences will convince people of underrepre-

sented ethnicities to follow in my footsteps and enter this noble profession,” said Balakrishnan, who emigrated from India 30 years ago. “My own daughter did, saying, ‘I see you come home from work every day, excited for the new day to begin. I want the same for myself.’”



Balakrishnan is the founder of the Shakespeare Support Group for TAG teachers and the Round Rock ISD Shakespeare Festival, and she is a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented (TAGT). In 2011, she was chosen the Region 13 TAGT Teacher of the Year.

Balakrishnan earned her teacher certification through the Teacher Recruitment Program at the Round Rock campus of Texas State University.

This story originally appeared on tasanet.org

ALUMNA: BLUMBERG-PAJAK SCHOLAR

Dr. Rachel Solis, a recent graduate of the School Improvement Ph.D. program has been named a Blumberg-Pajak Scholar by the Council of Professors of Instructional Supervision. The scholarship honors Dr. Arthur Blumberg and Dr. Edward Pajak, two legends in the field of instructional supervision who were known for both their outstanding scholarship and mentoring of young scholars. Dr. Solis received the award based on her doctoral dissertation research, which focuses on teachers using a reflective inquiry process to improve their instruction. She presented her dissertation research to COPIS members after being honored at the group’s annual meeting. Dr. Solis is the third graduate of the doctoral program, housed in the CLAS department, to be named a Blumberg-Pajak scholar. Previous award winners from the program include Dr. Karen Backor and Dr. Lyn Crowell.



Michael Schooler

Master’s in Educational Administration, 1994

Honoree in the 2015 Class of National Distinguished Principals

International Community School of Addis Ababa

U.S. Department of State—Office of Overseas Schools
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Koreena Villarreal

MEd in Health Education

Winner of The Graduate College’s Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award in the Social Sciences, Business, and Education

Thesis Title:

“Attitudes about Partner Communication Regarding Contraceptive Use among Hispanic Male College Students”

NASA GRANTS LBJ INSTITUTE \$3.4 MILLION

NASA’s Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) awarded two grants totaling \$3.4 million to the LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research.

STEM Teacher Excellence Project (STEP); \$3 million grant

The institute will receive up to \$1 million per year for three years to support the STEM Teacher Excellence Project (STEP). “STEP is one part of a focused effort to provide high-quality STEM professional development for educators who serve student populations that have typically been underrepresented in STEM fields,” said Leslie Huling, principal investigator for STEP. Collectively over the three years of the project, the 30 NASA STEP Institutes will provide 1,500 STEM educators with a series of content-rich NASA professional learning experiences and will impact all 10 NASA Centers across the U.S.

Future Aerospace-Engineers & Mathematicians Academy (FAMA) project; \$400,000 grant

The FAMA project, a collaborative effort between the LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research, the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District (SMCISD), and the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos (Centro) will receive funding to increase participation and retention of historically underserved and underrepresented students in STEM disci-

plines, including women and minority groups by creating fun and accessible opportunities for students to engage in STEM activities.

“We are thankful to NASA for this funding and plan to reach ten times as many students to encourage and further develop their innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving skills,” said Dr. Araceli Martinez Ortiz, Research and Assistant Professor of Engineering Education and Director of the LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research.

Programming begins in fall 2015 and continues through spring and summer 2016. The three-year FAMA project is expected to impact over 1,500 SMCISD elementary and middle school students per year.



(Front Row, left to right): Niki Konecki, Nicole Dray, Dr. Araceli Martinez Ortiz, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo

(Back Row, left to right): Sara Torres, Dr. John Beck, Hensley Cone, Dr. Stan Carpenter, Gloria Salazar, Dr. Laura Rodriguez Amaya

CTWP RECIPIENT OF WRITE FOR TEXAS \$100K GRANT

The Central Texas Writing Project (CTWP) was awarded \$100,000 through the *Write for Texas* grant to fund the *CTWP Write for Texas Professional Development Project*, which will support over 80 secondary teachers in the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District.

Write for Texas—a partnership among UT-Austin’s Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk, Texas Education Agency, and the Institute for Public School Initiatives—is a collection of resources available to all Texas secondary English language arts and reading, and content area teachers to support effective writing instruction. *Write for Texas* coaches support classroom teachers and administrators in creating school-wide literacy-rich environments.

Through this grant, the *CTWP Write for Texas Professional Development Project* will facilitate monthly meetings of coaching, mentoring, classroom demonstrations, book clubs, and workshops for sixth through tenth-grade teachers, delivering over 800 hours of professional development.

“I couldn’t be more pleased to collaborate with San Marcos CISD on this important project,” said Dr. Lori Assaf, professor in Curriculum and Instruction and CTWP Director. “We are excited about the potential for a long-term relationship with the teachers and administrators in San Marcos CISD and know that helping students become better readers and writers across the content areas will better prepare them for their college and career options in the future.”

CTWP focuses on sustained efforts to improve writing and literacy learning at all levels—early childhood through university—and across disciplines. Its goal is to support a community of educators as they learn from each other and develop their own writing and teaching strengths. The *Write for Texas* grant gives CTWP the opportunity to continue supporting this community.

Find more at education.txstate.edu

601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666-4684



2015 Turkey Adventure Race

Teams gathered for the 2015 Turkey Adventure Race to walk, jog, run, and skip across campus, completing wacky tasks along the way. Students in the undergraduate Recreation Program Development class helped organize the race while recruiting campus organizations to host each of the 15 stops. Challenges across campus ranged from knot tying to memorizing the school fight song to opening Hershey Kisses while wearing oven mitts. The College of Education boasts several winners including advisers Shauna Patek and Lacie Nicole Roberts, who won the Alumni division, and HHP Lecturer Kyle Patek and his teammate Kevin Kreitz, who won the Faculty and Staff division. Proceeds from the race paid for Thanksgiving dinners for five Hays County families; the remaining funds benefited the Association of Recreation Enthusiasts professional development student travel fund.