

CSUteach

Quarterly

Issue 7: Fall/ Winter 2013

A novel pathway to a noble profession...

CSUteach is proud to announce that we have had our last site visits by The UTeach Institute deeming our *CSUteach* program proficient in our abilities to provide excellent educational opportunities to our students! This is an important accomplishment because it shows that our program meets or exceeds expectations by The UTeach Institute's board of professionals.

Each year *CSUteach* continues to grow and reach new heights. In Fall 2013 semester we had 102 students enroll in our *CSUteach* program and 30 *CSUteach* students were awarded paid internships for Fall 2013.

The paid internship programs provide opportunities for *CSUteach* students to strengthen their preparation, provide a valuable service to our partners and the community, and earn money at the same time. Additionally, this fall we have offered resume, cover letter and interviewing tips workshops. Not only do we want to ensure our students have a great experience while in our program but we also prepare our students for their future and entering the work force.

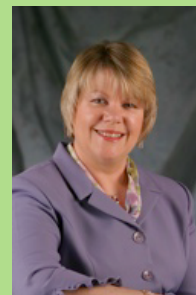
Throughout this newsletter edition you will find many "highlight" sections. The individuals awarded these opportunities have worked very hard to receive their recognition. The *CSUteach* staff

is proud of all the accomplishments our students, recent graduates, professors, and mentors have accomplished.

We look forward to increasing our *CSUteach* family for many years to come.

May we continue to be influencers of education,

Dr. Joanne Goodell
CSUteach Director





The site visits serve, in part, as a method of collecting and sharing programmatic data. Activities include meetings with various students, staff and faculty affiliated with the program as well as *CSUteach* classroom observations. The culmination of each site visit is a quantitative and qualitative report on the progress of the program. This visit represents the final of eight scheduled visits.

FALL UTeach Site Visit

On November 4-5, 2013, *CSUteach* had its final site visit conducted by its governing organization, the Uteach Institute. The site visits are part of the UTeach Institutes overall comprehensive plan for evaluating UTeach programs implementation on various campuses. Currently, CSU is part of 35 universities across the U.S. who are implementing UTeach programs. Faculty and staff at these universities represent a national community of experts focused on strengthening secondary STEM teacher preparation.



Pictured from left to right: Sajit Zachariah-Dean, College of Education and Human Services, Deirdre Mageean-CSU Provost, Meredith Bond- Dean, College of Science, Joanne Goodell-*CSUteach* Co-Director, Amy Moreland-Uteach Institute, Pamela Romero-Uteach Institute, Alicia Beth-Uteach Institute, Joyce Mastboom-College of Liberal Arts and Social Science, Miron Kaufman-Co-Director, and Julie Rittenhouse-University Advancement

Join WeTeach!

WeTeach



Pictured above is the new WeTeach banner designed by Kelton Anderson, the WeTeach officer of Computer Technology. The banner is now proudly on display in the Student Center.

WeTeach is a CSU organization open to all students. Many of the students that are already involved in the group are student's interested and pursuing teaching either in Mathematics or Sciences in grades 7-12.

WeTeach was organized to help students for tutoring, job placement, and to give the students a place where academic activities were also very entertaining. Some of the events that WeTeach has done in the past is a pumpkin painting event, visited some classes to talk about WeTeach, and set up seminars about job interviews and placement.

Currently the group is looking for new members that can contribute to some new ideas and activities.

Questions: please contact WeTeachAtCSU@gmail.com

WeTeach Executive

Board Members:

President: Michael Grazia

Vice President: Kimi Kentner

Secretary: Paula Riedel

Treasurer: Brandon Profit

Computer Technology:
Kelton Anderson

Advisor: Prof. Rick Walton

The WeTeach organization has had a lot of exciting events this fall!

Earlier this semester members passed out candy during CSU's Homecoming Parade while representing the College of Education Department.

Additionally, members helped the Cleveland Metro Parks during CSU's Homecoming with their educational display.

During Halloween, members had a "Halloween Hangout" where WeTeach members dressed in costume; members had a place to hangout, eat treats and socialize about their field experiences and lesson ideas in their site schools.

Members also designed "Thank You" letters for all of the mentor teachers in the *CSUteach* program for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Also, members designed Christmas tree ornaments to be placed on our WeTeach Christmas tree that will be displayed at one of our *CSUteach* site schools for the holidays!

Student SPOTLIGHT: Alexandra DiMasso

Briefly describe yourself:

My name is Alexandra DiMasso. I came to Cleveland State University straight out of high school from Cincinnati, Ohio. I am a senior and this is my fourth and final year in the *CSUteach* program. I am majoring in mathematics with a minor in both education and Spanish. Additionally, this is my fourth year as a varsity member of the Cleveland State University Swim and Dive team. Also, this is my fourth year as a member of the CSU Choose Ohio First program in mathematics. I was inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon, the Ohio Eta chapter two years ago. This is an honorary national mathematics society promoting scholarly activity in mathematics. I am also a member of the Dean's list and have received the scholar athlete academic award three times.

What do you enjoy most about the *CSUteach* program?

Coming into the *CSUteach* program straight from high school was initially a daunting experience. Walking into a classroom as a teenage "teacher" was unnerving. I was worried students would not respond respectfully to me because I was so young and so close to them in age. However, this turned out to be a great part of the *CSUteach* program. As a first year student, I started by teaching younger students in 5th grade. I was able to get all of my nervous energy out so that by the time my second year came teaching 8th grade students, I felt more comfortable in the classroom. Now, I am in my practicum, and I have

never felt more at ease as a teacher and authority figure. The program thus far has done a great job of helping me grow as a teacher and has helped me gain ample confidence within the classroom.

Why did you decide to be a teacher?

Math was always a subject I struggled with throughout my early years of school. Because of this struggle, I quickly resented the subject and decided that mathematics was too difficult for me to comprehend. However, my algebra teacher noticed I was having difficulties and instead of allowing me to skate on through the course, she took the incentive and decided that I needed extra help. I would go into school early and stay after school at least three times a week to work on practice problems with my teacher, and she would not stop until I had mastered the topic completely. What I had once thought was an impossible subject quickly became an intriguing subject of interest. This realization is something I want to give to future students. My math teacher had such a profound and positive impact on me, and this is an impact I want to carry on to my own students.

Highlight an important time/event at a particular field experience placement and what you learned from it.

I am currently in my practicum experience at New Tech at East Tech

High School under my mentor teacher Michelle Robb. Before this experience, I was inflexible in my lesson plan implementation. I used to think that I had to follow my plans to the very detail or my lesson would be unsuccessful. However, so far this year, I am learning to be flexible within my lessons. Classes are comprised of students with varying abilities, and as a teacher, I am learning how to adapt my lessons daily in order to teach the material in the most effective manner. Just because my lesson does not go exactly as planned does not mean it is an ineffective lesson. On the contrary, multiple lessons have gone better than expected once I adjusted to students' needs.

Do you have any advice for perspective *CSUteach* students?

The *CSUteach* program places a heavy emphasis on inquiry based learning. If you join this program, do not be afraid to make mistakes! Inquiry based explorations are a new way of both teaching and learning. It takes time and practice before teachers can successfully implement this style of teaching in a classroom.

Alexandra, continue your hard work and good luck with your future!
From: Your *CSUteach* Staff



First Time Teacher SPOTLIGHT: Dana Ukleja

What year/term did you graduate from CSUteach? What was your degree in?

I graduated after the summer session of 2013. Along with my Integrated Science teaching license I also received a Bachelor of Science degree in the Geological Sciences.

Briefly describe your current teaching experience:

I am currently teaching 9th grade Physical Science at Shaker Heights High School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. This is a large high school which has proven to be quite beneficial for me due to the high level of support and guidance by the other members of the science department as well as the administration. There are weekly department meetings and regularly scheduled faculty meetings which allow for a great deal of collaboration and communication throughout the building.

Does the school you are currently teaching at qualify for high needs? Briefly explain.

Shaker Heights High School does qualify as a high needs school. Although there is a large wealthy population there are still many students who do not have sufficient funds so it is considered to be a high needs population.

How do you feel CSUteach has prepared you to be a teacher?

I feel that *CSUteach* has definitely prepared me to be a teacher by providing me with ample opportunities to experience the classroom setting first hand at many different levels. The beginning of the program gave me the opportunity to get familiarized to the role of teacher and become more comfortable teaching before having to focus on the content. *CSUteach* also encouraged me to pursue multiple internship opportunities that were amazing and priceless experiences, they were also great for my resume.

What advice do you have for other students who are currently in CSUteach or who are interested in joining the CSUteach family?

If you were interested in joining the *CSUteach* family I would say what are you waiting for? The first course is only one credit and you can find out if a career in education is the right choice for you. If you are currently enrolled I would say take part in as many internship opportunities that you can and participate in the WeTeach organization.

What barriers have you experienced while teaching and how did you handle the situation/event?

I would say that I have not really experienced any unexpected barriers since I began teaching. The *CSUteach* program provided me with a lot of experience and I feel the professors and faculty did a great job preparing me for my

own classroom. You can never really learn all there is to know and I feel that I will be learning more and more each year. Additionally, it is nice to know that if I did come across barriers and if I was uncertain of how to handle those barriers I could contact any one of the *CSUteach* team members and they would be more than willing to help me out in any way that they could.



**Dana,
Congratulations
on your teaching
accomplishments!
From: Your
CSUteach Staff**

Mentor SPOTLIGHT: Michelle Robb

Michelle Robb has received the honorary Mentor Spotlight Award



A little bit about Michelle...

Michelle received her first degree from Cuyahoga Community College where she earned an Associate of Applied Science. Additionally, Michelle went to Baldwin Wallace College where she received her Bachelor of Education 4-9 Math and Science degree. Further, Michelle has also went to Western Governor's University where she earned a Masters in Secondary Math Education.

Michelle explains, "I am in my 7th year of teaching. All but one semester has been with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. During Cleveland's lay-offs in 2012, I worked at a public online school teaching 8th grade mathematics and science. I spent the first four years teaching 7th and 8th grade mathematics and science. Then I moved into high school, teaching 9th grade science and then 10th grade geometry."

Additionally, Michele acknowledges that being a *CSUteach* mentor has been very rewarding for her.

She explained, "I enjoy being a *CSUteach* mentor because the *CSUteach* students are full of energy and new ideas." Michelle further added, "I enjoy the professional collaboration and the student support they bring into the classroom."

Michelle explained that there are many benefits to being a *CSUteach* mentor. She acknowledges that not only is being a mentor a great opportunity for herself but that it also benefits her students, "My current student's benefit from the *CSUteach* program because the *CSUteach* students bring in the most current research-based high-quality lessons to the classroom." She also added, "It is wonderful for them to see college students as role models." Michelle also mentioned, "All of my classes have enjoyed their experiences with each *CSUteach* student."

When reflecting on her current experience as a *CSUteach* Mentor Michelle explained, "My advice to other potential mentors and *CSUteach* students is, give it a try! You will be pleasantly surprised." Michelle also feels that, "Communication is the key to a successful partnership" and that students as well as prospective mentors should, "Make sure they understand what is expected from the *CSUteach* program and communicate your expectations as a teacher/mentor as well."

**Michelle, thank you
for all that you do!
From: Your
CSUteach Staff**

APPLY TODAY! Choose Ohio First and
Noyce Scholarships are still available for
2013-2014

Choose Ohio First:

Up to \$4,700 a year available to current science and mathematics teachers, MUST students, current CSU mathematics and science majors interested in teaching licensure, or *CSUteach* pre-service teachers. Information and application can be found online at <http://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/centers/>



\$4,700 available



\$ 5,000 available

Robert J Noyce Scholarship:

\$ 5,000 available per semester for students (at least junior status) pursuing a secondary mathematics or science licensure through *CSUteach*. Information and application can be found online at <http://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/centers/csuteach/nouyce.html>

We are thankful for our *CSUteach*
Cleveland Area Partner Schools:

Andrew J Rickoff Elementary
Buckeye-Woodland
Charles Dickens Memorial
Brooklyn Middle School

East Tech Wrap Around High School
Brooklyn High School
Harvey High School

George Washington Carver STEM
Hannah Gibbons STEM
Michael R. White STEM
Orchard @ Halle STEM
Mound STEM

**Congratulations to these
Fall 2013 Choose Ohio
First Scholarship
Recipients!**

Hassan Adebessin
Dan Adair
Kristen Bentley
Stephanie Bierstedt
Lamar Bigsby
Daniel Clendenin
Carmen Doniver
Kathryn Ellington
Jacqueline Foy
Michael Grazia
Robert Gundic
Taylor Hines
Cat Humphries
Artist Hunter
Melissa Jeric
Kimberely Kentner
Sarah Kirschling
Blair Knauf
Zachary Kordeleski
Katie Lemmeyer
Matthew McDonald
Nicholas Pennypacker
Vincent Pozar
Eli Ramos
Taylor Rembert
Paula Riedel
Danielle Sampliner
Corinne Sandor
Kristen Schuler
Michael Sell
Britny Snodgrass
Nicholas Szerensci
Elise Tribuzzo
Jessica Wardzala
Austan Younker
Jessica Zikmani
Jennifer Zuldant

**Congratulations to these
Fall 2013 Noyce
Scholarship Recipients!**

Kelton Anderson
Sarah Avers
Eric Blegen
Walter Haggard
Michael Kurtz
Jason Labovitz
John Maykut
Robert Wolf

CHECK OUT HOW OUR STUDENT ARE DOING AT THE INTERNSHIP SITES!



HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY...

Michael Keller is an undergraduate science major who completed his internship at the Great Lakes Science Center:

For my internship, I am working at the Great Lakes Science Center in the Visitor and School Engagement Department. I am responsible for engaging guests and answering questions that they have with regards to the exhibits and special presentations.

My favorite part of the internship is working with the guests, especially the kids. It has really helped me to develop effective teaching skills.

I am learning to use more problem-based strategies when engaging guests and using more critical thinking questions when I talk to the guests and children. I'm learning to wait for the students to give me an answer rather than just try and give them the answer if they don't immediately know it.

Jessica Wardzala is a post-bacc science major who completed her internship at the Botanical Gardens:

I am working at the Cleveland Botanical gardens. My favorite part is being outside while teaching kids about plants/nature.

The most important thing I am learning is how to deal with small children, I am much more used to middle and high schoolers! I am also learning how to change things on the fly and be very flexible, things are always changing there.

Matthew McDonald is an undergraduate mathematics major who completed his internship for MTH 201: Functions & Modeling Assistant:

I am helping college classroom professors out in anyway I can. Whether it be copies, examining tests over before they are issued, helping solidify concepts taught in class, or offering additional help to students outside the classroom, I help out. My favorite part about this opportunity is the option to work inside the classroom. I am learning how to correctly label questions in a verbal and written manner to students whether it be tests, homework, or just a written problem. The way a question is asked is important, and I'm learning that.

Mike Wright is an undergraduate mathematics major who completed his internship at a Tutoring Center:

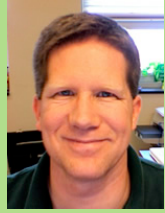
Right now I am currently tutoring during and after school at Harvey High School in Painesville, Ohio. I have my own workspace within the guidance department and have a chance to work with at-risk students that are struggling with mathematics. My favorite part about my current internship is getting to work one-on-one with the students. In a class with 30 students it is very difficult to really get a feel for what each and every students does and does not understand. When you are able to work with a student on an individual basis, you are able to have a huge impact on that student's learning.

This experience is teaching me a lot. While I was student teaching, I was able to tutor after school as a part of this internship and that really helped me get a feel for what parts of the curriculum students were struggling with and which parts were not as bad. Also, I am working with students who are taking courses that I have never taught, so I am trying to remember how to complete some of the problems as I am teaching the processes to my students.



Joanne E. Goodell, Ph.D.
Professor
CO-Director *CSUteach*

CSUteach Faculty



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Associate Professor Science



Miron Kaufman, Ph.D.
Chair & Professor, Physics



Debbie Jackson, Ed.D.
Associate Professor Science



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Mathematics



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Selma Koç, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Curriculum
and Instruction



Ulrich Zurcher, Ph.D.
Associate Professor Physics

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CSUteach Quarterly

Cleveland State University

CSUteach's mission is:

"To prepare highly qualified STEM teachers in partnership with university education, mathematics, and science faculty and urban school districts."

