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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A SEMESTER OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In our fifth installment, we have a lot of good news to share. The Center for Urban Education (CUE) has been successful in advancing its mission this semester, garnering a host of new external grants, extending its outreach, and bringing people together in the College of Education and Human Services to reflect and talk about what it means to be an urban serving university.

The CUE is serving on 11 active grants and contracts, including three new grants awarded within the past three months by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Education, and The Spencer Foundation. The CUE is proud to serve on these and many other projects that benefit students at the K-12 and post-secondary level. We are also pleased to provide the latest R&D activities at Campus International School (CIS), featured events, completed grants, and the student spotlight section.

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Campus International School Update

It's been another successful and exciting semester at CIS. Many developments have occurred, from architectural plans for the future K-8 building to the new murals and an updated website. For more information about CIS, please visit the school's website at <http://www.csuohio.edu/campusinternational>.

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME AUTHORIZATION

As CIS enrolls 7th grade students this year and 8th graders next year, its planning and intensity of preparation for eventual authorization as a Middle Years Programme (MYP) International Baccalaureate (IB) School is now ratcheting up. The CUE was pleased to bring in a consultant, Louis “Lou” Marchesano, to provide MYP assessment



**Middle Years
Programme**

training for all staff at CIS over the course of two days in July. Lou's training was positively received, so much that we plan on bringing him back for further training and consultation next year.

COLLABORATIVE ACTION RESEARCH

After completing another successful cycle of collaborative action research (CAR) at CIS in the 2014-15 school year, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation has committed to support the program in the 2015-16 school year. CAR is a research approach that partners teachers with university researchers to identify problems in the school, implement a plan to address the problem, and analyze data to determine whether the intervention works. Drs. Mary Gove, Grace Huang,

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Finally, I would like to direct our readers to recent announcements posted on the CUE's website. There you will find photos taken at the CIS summer camp (Movie Magic), as well as a new video featuring Dr. Voight's appearance on the Sound of Ideas on WVIZ ideastream, which focuses on the role of SAT and ACT scores in predicting (or not predicting) student success in college. Our website also includes a story from The Cleveland Scene about two new murals designed at CIS. With all of these highlights in mind, I am pleased to give you our Winter 2015 newsletter.

JUSTIN PERRY, Director of the Center for Urban Education, Cleveland State University

Adam Voight, Diane Corrigan, and Ron Abate of Cleveland State University (CSU) are leading the effort, partnering with over 20 other CSU faculty and CIS teachers and administrators. The project will generate new knowledge about "what works" to improve student learning at CIS.

ADVISORY BOARD

Over the past year, the CIS Advisory Board has been engaged in developing new initiatives and committee structures to support the mission of CIS. This task has been spearheaded by the Chair of the Board, Michael Christoff. The CUE is pleased to report that these new committees will be formed around the following areas: (a) Speaker Series at CIS, (b) Marketing, (c) Fundraising, (d) Alumni Relations, and (e) PTO Liaisons. We look forward to assisting the members of the Board as they embark on these important endeavors.

SUMMER CAMP AT CSU: STEAM EDUCATION IN ACTION

In our previous newsletter, one of the featured summer camps was the Computer Aided Design Camp (CAD), led by Dr. Ron Abate and Art Teacher Melissa Nilsen. CAD engaged 5th through 7th graders at CIS in sewing activities modeled after the "maker movement" and STEAM education. Well, it not only met its goal of engaging 12 students – it also made the camp available to boys and girls. Originally, CAD was going to be designed for girls. But as the photos below show, all of the children, regardless of gender, enjoyed the camp and were engaged in the learning activities. The CUE would like to especially thank Ms. Nilsen for all of her efforts in making CAD such a great success. We look forward to sponsoring another CAD summer camp next year!



CIS students and teachers participate in the summer Computer Aided Design Camp at CSU

Research and Grants

This fall, the CUE was awarded several new grants and completed new research in collaboration with partners located on campus, in the Cleveland K-12 community, and with other universities and colleges located throughout the region. This impressive list of new grants is highlighted below.

STUDY OF HOW YOUTH ANALYZE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

In October, Dr. Voight was awarded a prestigious research grant from the Spencer Foundation to conduct a research project that investigates how young people analyze and understand social issues that affect their lives.

The one-year grant award of \$48,262 is funding Dr. Voight's study, "Critical Social Analysis Among Marginalized Youth," through October 2016. Dr. Voight is serving as Principal Investigator (PI) with Dr. Matthew Diemer from the University of Michigan serving as Co-PI. Data collection for the project, which begins Spring 2016 will involve surveying several hundred young people in middle and high schools in Northeast Ohio, and conducting one-on-one interviews



with about 20 youth. Findings from the study may help inform interventions to build young people's capacity to understand social problems and take action to change them.

HEALTH CAREERS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The CUE learned this fall that it will collaborate with the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) on a recently awarded \$1,903,385 Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



This grant addresses the under-representation of people from disadvantaged backgrounds in the health professions. The Project Directors from NEOMED, Drs. Erik Porfeli and Gina Weisblat, will lead a system of healthcare workforce pipeline programs from Baldwin Wallace University, CSU, Hiram College, and Youngstown State University to serve over 800 high school and college students. The union of these programs is expected to yield a 20% increase in high school graduation, a 50% increase in college acceptance and retention, and an across the board admission rate of 10% to undergraduate health professions degrees among disadvantaged students. Dr. Perry will represent the CUE as the Lead Evaluator during the course of the grant.

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY



As noted below, this fall the CUE helped host a rich conversation among the college community about what it means to be an urban university. Much discussion focused on the unique responsibility of institutions like CSU to give back to the surrounding community. Indeed, the university, as a whole, has prioritized partnerships with Cleveland's Central Neighborhood, just adjacent to CSU's downtown campus. The CUE is working with faculty from the CSU Department of Curriculum and Foundations to help grow relationships with the Central Neighborhood by holding a series of discussions with neighborhood stakeholders regarding how we might work together (described in the "Community Building" section below). These conversations have resulted in an exciting spring field experience wherein CSU undergraduate teacher candidates will tutor Central Neighborhood youth. I look forward to seeing this collaboration grow.

ADAM VOIGHT, Associate Director of the Center for Urban Education, Cleveland State University



CSU TRIO PROGRAM

Another large federal grant was awarded this fall to the CUE in partnership with George Bovell, Director of the CSU TRIO/Student Support Services Program. This competitive grant was awarded for a second



time to CSU from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$2,600,000. Consistent with the mission of TRIO, the purpose of this second 5-year iteration

at CSU is to improve the retention and graduation rates among undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds through an array of academic, career, mentoring, and enrichment services. A major emphasis of this year's competition focused on the role of "non-cognitive" factors. As the project Evaluator, Dr. Perry is excited by this opportunity to assess and monitor the impact of the program on these important outcomes as well as more traditional metrics of student success.

HEALTHCARE OCCUPATIONS KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT

This past summer, Dr. Perry completed the first phase of development of the Healthcare Occupations Knowledge Assessment (HOKA), a project funded by the American Public Land-grant Universities in affiliation with the AAMC/USU Shark Tank Data Innovation Challenge that was held at CSU's campus in October, 2014. Working with five content experts across the country, all of whom are associated with the UU-4HEALTH Learning Collaborative, Dr. Perry and his research team in the CUE developed over 100 test items designed to assess knowledge of 16 different healthcare occupations, supplemented with cognitive interviews with youth participants in the CHAMPS program at CSU. Upon completion, the HOKA will serve as a new and objective measure for evaluating the impact of healthcare workforce pipeline programs. All over the nation, pipeline programs typically seek to increase the level and accuracy of knowledge students in both secondary and post-secondary levels of education acquire about certain healthcare occupations, especially among minority groups who continue to be underrepresented in the healthcare professions.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Libby Klancher, is pursuing her Master's degree and teaching license in Early Childhood Education at CSU, where she also earned her bachelor's degree of Sociology in 2012. At the CUE, Libby is assisting Dr. Voight with the *Student Voice in Urban Education Reform* research study, which aims to build on the existing strengths of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) program within the high schools of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) through research based recommendations. The mission of the SAC program is to mentor young adults in the skills necessary to both cultivate and influence meaningful reforms within their schools. As a long time social justice activist and advocate of student-led education reform, Libby is looking forward to the potential of making a positive impact on the SAC program.

DIGILIT

This fall, the CUE completed its evaluation of the DigiLit project in partnership with Cleveland Heights-University Heights and Dr. Kathleen Roskos, PI from John Carroll University. Featured in the Fall 2014 newsletter, this Straight A Fund grant was awarded from the Ohio Department of Education. The final report was based on a quasi-experimental study using mixed methods and was primarily concerned with testing the intervention's impact on elementary school students' literacy and other outcomes at the student and teacher level. Informed by the CUE's report, DigiLit continues to be implemented in CH-UH. Moving forward, the CUE will partner with the Wadsworth City Schools, a district that wishes to adopt DigiLit in all of its elementary schools. Finally, the CUE received news in November that it will present with a group of DigiLit and literacy colleagues at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting in April, 2016 at a symposium entitled "Print To Digital in the Language Arts: Small Scale Studies of Digital Innovation."

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SPONSORED EVENTS

On November 4th, the CUE joined with the Dean's Diversity Council of the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) to co-sponsor an event entitled "What Does It Mean to Be an Urban University?" The event sought to continue earlier conversations in the COEHS about its urban identity. Approximately 30 faculty, staff, students, and outside community members attended to hear Byron White, Vice President for University Engagement and Chief Diversity Officer at CSU, present university-wide strategies that CSU is pursuing to realize its mission as an urban university. Attendees then worked in small groups to discuss what it means for the COEHS to be "urban" and what the implications are for the work of the college.

The event was motivated in part by a 50-year-old article by Leonard Goodall suggesting that urban universities should emphasize service to the surrounding community and related teacher and research to the surrounding urban environment. The event sparked a rich conversation that will carry over into the work of the Dean's Diversity Council into the spring.

effects of changing residences. The study results confirmed existing research that shows that residential mobility is harmful to the academic achievement and attendance of middle school students. The study added to the scientific literature by showing that when mobile students are engaged in civic and extracurricular activities at school (for example, as a leader in club), the harm inflicted by changing residences is significantly attenuated, and, in some cases, completely offset. The study is currently under consideration for publication in a leading educational research journal.

YOUTH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY AT TRI-C

Previously featured in our inaugural 2012 newsletter, the CUE was proud to complete its role as external evaluator this semester on the NSF-funded grant awarded to Dr. George Bilokonsky at Tri-C through the Advanced Technology Education (ATE) Program. Unsurprisingly, one of the key findings in the final report was the critical role that hands-on learning activities and the VEX Robotics competitions played during the coursework and summer boot camps. Students in the "C-PED" program took part in 10 competitions, for example, during the 2014-15 school year. Building on the findings that emerged from the involvement of hundreds of urban high school students, participating high school teachers in STEM subjects, college instructors, tutors, and mentors, the CUE is excited to continue to work with Tri-C on several projects, including a second NSF funded grant from the ITEST program.

RESILIENCE TO RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY STUDY

Dr. Voight and graduate student Regina Giraldo-Garcia of CSU collaborated with Marybeth Shinn of Vanderbilt University to examine a dataset from Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools to explore factors that may help students overcome the negative



Community Building

The CUE is excited about the growth of existing partnerships and the creation of new ones this past fall. Below several of these collaborations are described.

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

The exciting partnership between the CUE and the CMSD has continued to burgeon in the past months. In September, Dr. Voight began a large-scale research study (described in the last issue of the newsletter) of the district's high school student voice initiative. Furthermore, the CUE has collaborated with CMSD to create several new professional development opportunities for graduate students. The CUE worked with Dr. Judy Ausherman and the CMSD Wellness Committee, with the support of the Saint Luke's Foundation, to create two school health fellowships to support the Cleveland Healthy Schools Program. The school health fellows began their work in October and provide intensive technical assistance focusing on the creation of healthier school environment within select school buildings. Dr. Voight has worked with the CMSD Department of Research and Evaluation to create a new fellowship position for a graduate student at CSU to gain invaluable experience with the evaluation of policies and programs within a large urban district like CMSD. The fellow will be hired and is scheduled to begin this spring with the goal of making the fellowship an annual award for an exceptional graduate student. Finally, the CUE and CMSD collaboratively submitted a research grant proposal to the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education in August that would support the study of school climate in the district.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

This past summer, the CUE continued to engage with CH-UH district administrators and leaders on another project focusing on a grant proposal submitted to the U.S. Department Education's Skills for Success program, entitled "Promoting Student Success in Urban Middle Schools: A Comparison of Three Non-Cognitive Approaches in a Randomized Controlled Trial." Following the CUE's success in working with the district on the DigiLit grant, this opportunity presented a natural win-win situation. Although the proposal was not funded, it provided a solid foundation for expanding our existing partnership into other grade levels that focus on additional priorities and needs of the school district. Indeed, Drs. Perry and Voight had the pleasure of attending the school district's recent partnership event, "Celebration of a New Era of CH-UH Schools." More information about the event including can be found at <http://www.chuh.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=53UIPY&dasi=3Y2I>.

CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Dr. Voight collaborated with Drs. Marius Boboc, Anne Galletta, and Glenda Cotner in securing a small grant from the CSU Office of Civic Engagement to build relationships with groups in Cleveland's Central Neighborhood, which abuts CSU campus. The goal of this relationship-building is to help improve conditions for the residents of the Central Neighborhood while simultaneously providing learning experiences for undergraduate teacher candidates in the COEHS. The fruits of these efforts have resulted in the creation of an innovative field experience for first-semester education majors this spring, wherein they will work with students in an afterschool program for students in the Central Neighborhood run by the Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Center for Urban Education
Cleveland State University
College of Education and Human Services
Julka Hall 379
2485 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2214
Website: www.csuohio.edu/cehs/cue/cue-center-for-urban-education
Phone: 216-687-5378 | 216-687-5437
Email: j.c.perry96@csuohio.edu | a.voight@csuohio.edu