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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### A FOND FAREWELL

This constitutes the sixth installment of our newsletter, coinciding with nearly six years of operation at the Center for Urban Education (CUE) since it was founded in 2010. Each year the CUE has grown in its outreach and provision of services to advance its mission. Each year, we have worked on new grants and projects, embarked on exciting collaborations with faculty across campus, forged an ever-expanding network of partnerships, and remained dedicated to the support of key initiatives at Campus International School. Looking back on its beginnings, it is with a deep sense of pride and gratefulness that I now reflect on how far the Center has come.

As usual, we have a lot of good news to share. Unlike previous newsletters, this will be the last time I write this message. I announced in the Spring 2015 newsletter that I would be stepping down from my role in order to focus on my position as Chair of the CASAL Department. What I

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## Campus International School Update

### SOCIAL ACTION RESEARCH

A new hallmark of the spring semester in the College of Education and Human Services is the presentation of social action research projects conducted at Campus International School (CIS). In many ways, this annual tradition embodies what it means to be engaged in transformational learning and research with a professional development school. Every time we celebrate this important work between CSU faculty and CIS staff, the event just keeps getting better. On April 21st, Drs. Mary Gove, Grace Huang, Adam Voight, and Diane Corrigan organized the sharing of 14 action research projects as Co-PIs of a third grant funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. The projects addressed a wide range of empirical research questions, including, (a) "What is the impact of the DISTAR Reading Program on reading behaviors, attitudes, and skills of kindergarten students?"; (b) "Do student scores on the Fitnessgram assessment change over an academic year?"; (c) "Does a color-coded sight-word strategy improve the literacy of 1st-3rd grade special education students?"; and (d) "Does visual image exposure improve the Chinese language listening comprehension of 4th grade and kindergarten non-native speakers?"

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The CUE was pleased to sponsor a presentation by Dr. Ron Abate, Professor-in-Residence at CIS, Diane Corrigan, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum & Foundations, Dr. Adam Voight, Associate Director of the CUE, Kindergarten Teachers Kathleen Taylor and Jennifer Humphrey, and 4<sup>th</sup>

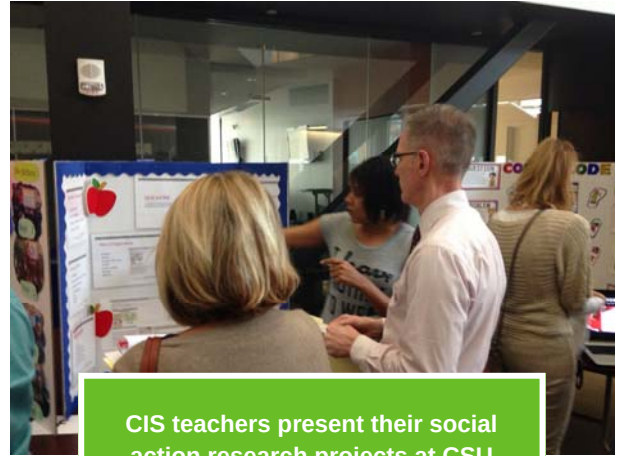
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did not know at that time was that I would also be saying farewell to the university and to Cleveland. After 10 years of service at Cleveland State, I will be moving on to the University of Missouri – Kansas City as the Dean of the School of Education. I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Adam Voight has been appointed as the next Director of the CUE. He has already brought new energy and direction to the life of the Center, and I know I will be leaving its future in extremely capable hands. So as I give you the latest updates and highlights, I am thankful for all that has been done on behalf of the Center over the past six years – and I can't wait to see what happens during the next six and beyond.

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

Grade Teacher Kate Grzelak at the 2016 Professional Development Schools National Conference held in Washington, DC. The title of the presentation was “Cultivating Collaboration and Relevance in Action Research.” The CUE was also excited to sponsor a second presentation entitled “Online Professional Development in Technology Integration” by Dr. Abate, Kate Grzelak, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Marcy Perry. We look forward to seeing more presentations at the 2017 NAPDS conference.



CIS teachers present their social action research projects at CSU

#### GET MUDDY AS TECH FUNDRAISER

On May 19th and 20th, the Parent Caring Organization (PCO) at Campus International School, led by Paul Kukla, Shannon Deinhart, and Kristina Semrad, took the initiative to launch a bold new fundraising event called “Get Muddy as Tech,” located at Euphoria Fitness. The CUE was honored to sponsor this event. All proceeds went to help purchase technology for CIS students in an effort to ensure that every child at the school has access to the technology they need to be successful in their learning environment. The concept of the event was based on an obstacle course rotation (e.g., net climbing, tight rope bridge, tunnel crawl, monkey bars). Students in grades K-4 participated on the first day and grades 5-7 participated on the second day of obstacle course activities. Every child got muddy, and some even got a little wet! Readers can watch a video of the event produced by Channel 20 at: <https://drive.google.com/file/>



CIS students participating in obstacle course at “Get Muddy as Tech” fundraiser

# Research and Grants

This spring and summer, the CUE completed, continued, and began a number of research projects in collaboration with partners located on campus, in the Cleveland K-12 community, and with other universities and colleges. These projects are described below.

## INNOVATION AND DESIGN FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

The CUE collaborated with the Orange City School District (OCSD) to receive a \$750,000 Straight A Fund grant from the Ohio Department of Education in June, 2016, which will support the diffusions of problem-based learning and 21st century skills in OCSD schools. OCSD will partner with Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM (TIES), Cleveland State University STEM, and MC2STEM High School to create three “innovation spaces” where students in grades PreK through 12 will learn to be innovators, creators, and makers solving relevant, real-world problems. Dr. Voight will serve as external evaluator on this project.



## SCHOOL HEALTH FELLOWS

With funding from the Saint Luke's Foundation, the CUE hired two School Health Fellows in January, Christina Papantoniou and Kelcey Fischer, to provide technical assistance on creating healthy school environments to schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD). The Fellows served as liaisons between schools, the CMSD Wellness Committee, and CSU faculty, helping to conduct assessments of school health, implement wellness councils and other initiatives in schools, and revise health education standards. The Fellows project was led by Dr. Judy Ausherman in the CSU College of Education and Human Services.



## STUDY OF SCHOOL CLIMATE IMPROVEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In collaboration with Dr. Maury Nation of Vanderbilt University, Dr. Voight published a study in the *American Journal of Community Psychology* in August that systematically reviewed practices and programs with evidence for improving school climate in secondary schools. The field of school climate improvement is rapidly expanding, yet the empirical evidence for “what works” has lagged behind. This study addressed an important knowledge gap by identifying nine common features of successful school climate improvement strategies.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

### ON FILLING BIG SHOES



I am honored and humbled to assume directorship of the CUE effective this fall. I thank Dr. Perry for bringing me on board to the CUE and modeling excellence in leadership and collaboration. His are big shoes to fill. I look forward to building on the work that Dr. Perry started as well as growing the CUE in new and exciting directions. One new direction that the CUE took in the spring involved collaborating with the CSU Department of Curriculum and Foundations to broker a partnership with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) that involved CSU undergraduate students tutoring local youth at the Outhwaite Community Center in the Central Neighborhood of Cleveland. CSU students conducted research projects on social issues pertinent to the Central Neighborhood and presented their projects at a town hall event open to all CMHA residents. The resulting dialogue was a rich example of urban education for all involved that we hope to carry forward in future semesters.

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





## STUDY OF HOW YOUTH ANALYZE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

With support from the Spencer Foundation, the CUE collected data this spring and summer for a research project that investigates how young people analyze and understand social issues that affect their lives. The study, entitled “Critical Social Analysis Among Marginalized Youth,” will be concluded in October and yield evidence for how young people in the Cleveland area make sense of common social issues they experience and witness in their lives. The study will also provide evidence of the relationship between the types of explanations that youth provide for social issues and their political identification. Dr. Voight is serving as Principal Investigator (PI) with Dr. Matthew Diemer from the University of Michigan serving as Co-PI.



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## URBAN HEALTH FELLOWS

The CUE collaborated with the CSU School of Health Sciences to receive a two-year \$450,000 grant from the Saint Luke's Foundation in July, which will support the second iteration of the Urban Health Fellows program. In each of its two years, the program will recruit 30 incoming CSU freshmen from economically and educationally disadvantaged groups with interests in health careers as Urban Health Fellows. Fellows will join a supportive community at CSU that engages them in monthly health professions seminars, mentoring, tutoring, community service, and a summer camp focused on math, science, and English academic success, research, and professional skills, seminars. The goal is to increase the number of traditionally underrepresented students enrolled in graduate programs in health and medicine at CSU and to instill a sense of connection to the Cleveland community and remediation of health disparities in the area. Dr. Voight will serve as external evaluator on this project.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Tamara Coats**, is pursuing her Ph.D. in Urban Education at CSU with a specialization in Adult and Continuing Education. At the CUE, Tamara is assisting Dr. Voight with the *Critical Social Analysis among Marginalized Youth* study, funded by the Spencer Foundation as well as the evaluation of a reading tutoring program in Youngstown City Schools in collaboration with the Ohio Education Research Center (OERC). Tamara is the founding director of a nonprofit organization called After the Streetlights that partners with social service agencies and faith-based organizations in Lorain County to address teen pregnancy and low self-esteem. She also teaches courses at Lorain County Community College, where she has been recognized as an outstanding faculty person. Tamara has two daughters.

## 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.

### POLICY RESEARCH FELLOWS

In collaboration with the Research and Evaluation Department at Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), the CUE created a new graduate assistantship opportunity as a Policy Research Fellow in the Spring 2016 semester for one doctoral student in the Urban Education Ph.D. program at CSU to work alongside researchers and evaluators at CMSD to assist central office officials and school leaders with data-driven decision-making. This position is supported by CMSD and the Department of Curriculum and Foundations and the Doctoral Studies program at CSU. Marcia Lords was the first Fellow serving in the Spring semester, and after her successful experience, the position has been renewed for the 2016-17

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## SPONSORED EVENTS

On April 28th, the CUE hosted a workshop facilitated by the Ohio Education Research Center on using administrative data from the Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive (OLDA). The OLDA is a new database available to researchers and public stakeholders that combines longitudinal, person-level data from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), Ohio Job and Family Services (ODJFS), and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. This database allows for the investigation of research topics including long-term employment outcomes of education and training programs, high school to college transitions, education standards and assessments, education improvement and innovation, and early childhood outcomes. Twenty participants attended the session, including faculty and staff from the CSU College of Education and Human Services, the CSU Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The goal of the session was to equip attendees with the ability to use the OLDA to support their research and evaluation activities and to build relationships across the education research community.

Houston Independent School District), and the Stanford-SFUSD Partnership (Stanford University and San Francisco Unified School District). The CUE and CMSD learned valuable lessons about partnership building from this experience and are excited to move their collaboration forward in the 2016-17 school year.

## CENTER RESEARCH AND GRANTS continued from page 5

year. After a competitive application process, Laura Fogarty, a first-year Ph.D. student in Urban Education, was selected as the Fellow for the 2016-17 academic year. This fellowship represents an exceptional opportunity for CSU doctoral students to receive mentoring and applied research experience in an urban school district.

## NATIONAL NETWORK OF EDUCATION RESEARCH -PRACTICE PARTNERSHIPS

Building off the fruitful collaborations between the CUE and CMSD in the 2015-16 school year (e.g., a collaborative research grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences; the completion of the “Student Voice in Urban Education” research project), the two organizations have explored formalizing the partnership by joining the newly established National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (NNERPP). As part of this exploration, Dr. Voight attended the first annual meeting of NNERPP in New Orleans on August 2nd and 3rd to learn about the experiences of more established urban research-practice partnerships such as the Chicago Consortium for School Research (University of Chicago and Chicago Public Schools), the Houston Education Research Consortium (Rice University and



Presenters from the Houston Education Research Consortium at the NNERPP annual meeting

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

### A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING DIRECTOR

It's hard for me to say good-bye to the CUE, CSU, and the Cleveland community. Over the past 10 years, I've been privileged to work with so many people from all kinds of backgrounds, academic disciplines, and professions. The one thing which has been constant throughout this journey is the common values people share with the mission of the Center, and the power that they hold in bringing people together, united by a common cause. In the world of higher education, we can never lose sight of that basic bond held between ourselves and, more importantly, with the community and our public stakeholders and constituents. In this respect, I have told everyone I have met along the way that the reason the Center has been so successful is because it stands for serving the community in its broadest sense. I've been fortunate to see it become a reality. In this spirit I leave readers with several photos that attest to the CUE's great work by returning to the source where it all began—Campus International School.



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