

Project DEVELOP

News



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<http://www.education.sfasu.edu/sed/>

August 2006
Volume 1, Issue 1

What is Project DEVELOP?

Project DEVELOP is a partnership between Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) and 21 high-need East Texas school districts. The program is designed to promote leaders from within the partnering schools to school improvement efforts. Project DEVELOP stands for Developing an Entrepreneurial Vision for Exemplary Leadership and Ongoing Professionalism.

Our goal is to identify, prepare and place high-quality assistant principals and principals in partner schools where they can make a positive impact on the lives of all students. Further, it is our intention to ensure diversity in the identification and placement of these future school leaders. We are interested in providing a high-quality program with innovative design and delivery to aspiring school leaders. Our staff has designed a program where students will be able to experience in-class (face-to-face) and online opportunities through the use of Web enhanced modules. Our plan is to sustain this initiative through the formation of collaborative partnerships with school districts.

For students who qualify, Project DEVELOP will pay \$300 per course. In addition to their regular self-selected mentor, each student also will be assigned a coaching specialist who will offer guidance as the student progresses through the program. Coaching specialists are highly qualified principals or other administrators currently working in successful districts. Students in the program also will have opportunities to present at major conferences such as TASSP and TEPSA.

In order to qualify, a student must work in one of the partnering districts (listed on the back page of this newsletter), meet departmental requirements as listed on the Web site, plan to apply for a principal or assistant principal position immediately following certification, and plan to accept employment as an assistant principal or principal. The candidate's superintendent also would consider the candidate for employment as an assistant principal or principal.

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The Big Kick Off

On Oct. 12, 2005, SFA “kicked off” Project DEVELOP by inviting all district partner superintendents and coordinators to join us for a celebration and information session. The partnering districts were informed of the grant through a presentation by Drs. Julia Ballenger, Craig Coleman, Betty Alford and Lee Stewart. John Jacobson, dean of the College of Education, and John Leonard, interim associate dean, spoke of the benefits SFA offers.

The Kick Off helped SFA make useful connections between the SFA faculty and the leaders of our partnering public schools. It was a time for our faculty to learn exactly what superintendents are looking for in future administrators. The information we gleaned from this discussion already has been infused into our programs. Our new classes that are being designed for online delivery are taking on the characteristics and qualities expressed by these working administrators. We all understand the importance of working partnerships between the collegiate level and the elementary and secondary levels of education. This concept of creating and sustaining partnerships was not lost at the Kick Off meeting. Practical ideas were gained from the open dialogue.

How are we doing?

We began enrolling students in Nacogdoches in fall 2005 and spring 2006. Nineteen students made up the first cohort. Our Pine Tree cohort began with 11 members in spring 2006. These two cohorts met the project goal of 30 participants in the first year. Each student entered the program with a strong willingness to learn. Dr. Craig Coleman led the fall Nacogdoches cohort through its first two courses. Dr. Lee Stewart led the spring cohort through its first two courses. Both groups are well on their way to having the appropriate certifications and qualifications for principal and assistant principal positions. One member of the cohort already has been offered a principal’s position, and one has been offered an assistant principal’s position. Two members of the fall cohort have been accepted into the doctoral program at SFA. In 2007, we will be preparing for 35 additional students.

Students’ Presentations at TEPSA and TASSP

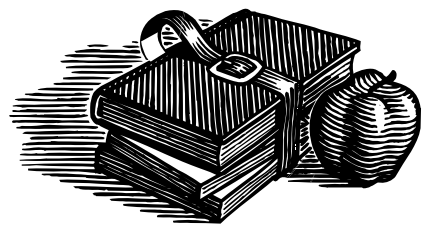
Dr. Julia Ballenger co-authored two papers with both cohorts on the subject “School Culture” for the TEPSA and TASSP summer conferences, June 7-9, 2006. Each student received a \$300 stipend to help defray some of their expenses. The students did a fantastic job presenting the papers and have requested that we provide similar opportunities in the future.



Charles Lowery presenting at TEPSA in Austin June, 2006.

Summer Reception

The faculty, along with our students, mentors, coaches, and district partners, enjoyed refreshments and a networking reception at the TEPSA and TASSP summer conference in June. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to make new contacts. This is part of our ongoing efforts to develop partnerships between SFA and PK–12 educators.



***School is a building that has four walls-
with tomorrow inside.***

-Lon Watters

An Opportunity for Growth

Project DEVELOP participants attended a presentation by Dr. Ricardo Garcia, professor of education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The presentation was sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa for SFA faculty and students in February. Garcia spoke on the Art and Practice of Hispano Storytelling. It was a great opportunity for our students and faculty to gain insight in storytelling for building community.



Attendees enjoyed Dr. Ricardo Garcia's presentation on Hispano storytelling.

Law Conference

Project DEVELOP students attended the SFA Texas School Law Conference held on the campus in March. The Department of Secondary Education and Educational Leadership helped coordinate the event. Participants included educational leadership faculty, principal candidates, members of both cohorts, and practitioners.

Coaching Specialists Training Sessions

SFA has sponsored two coaches' training sessions. March 23, 2006, Karen Anderson, a coaching specialist, trained our coaches and the faculty in coaching techniques. This training proved to be very useful for all participants. Afterward, the coaches expressed how important they felt the training was in our discussions. The second opportunity for coaches' training was on April 27. We were able to gain additional insight into what coaches should be doing as they work with students.

Projected Coursework for 36-Hour Master's Degree with Principal Certificate

- * AED 501 General Administrative Theory
- * AED 516 The School Principalship K-12
- * AED 517 Instructional Leadership
- * AED 549 Foundations of Curriculum
- AED 513 Administration of Special Services
- * AED 565 School Law
- AED 552 School and Community Relations
- AED 553 School Personnel Administration
- AED 519 Supervision of the Instructional Program
- AED 591 Practical Inquiry and Action Research I
- AED 592 Practical Inquiry and Action Research II
- * AED 599 Synthesis of Educational Leadership
- * Required for the 18-hour Certificate Only Program

Steps to Begin

- Contact the Project DEVELOP team leader from your location. (See graduate faculty listed on the back of this newsletter for team leaders, locations and phone numbers.)
- Download principal preparation program application form at http://www.education.sfasu.edu/sed/forms/Principal_Preparation.pdf
- Apply for admission to the Graduate School. http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/ProspStudents/apply_reg.html

Student Comments about the Program

Denise Robbins: "The program is flexible by coming to Longview. The professors are so understanding and helpful."

Tiki Smith: "This has been a fantastic opportunity to obtain the education necessary to an effective administrator."

Brandon Jones: "I am thankful to have the opportunities that have come through Project DEVELOP. We have been given the opportunity to have part of our tuition paid, and we were able to attend and present at the TEP SA conference in Austin."

Partnering Districts

Alba-Golden	Marshall
Beckville	Nacogdoches
Center	New Summerfield
Jacksonville	Rusk
Joaquin	Shepherd
Kirbyville	Slocum
Laneville	Spurger
Longview	Tenaha
Lufkin	Timpson
Malakoff	West Sabine
	Woodville

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Why consider the Principal Preparation Program at Stephen F. Austin State University?

- Well-respected program among state and national educational leaders
- Dynamic instructors with successful public school leadership records
- 99-percent pass rates on the TExES exam
- Team-oriented environment
- Diversity is encouraged and respected.
- Cohort model encourages collegiality
- Field-based experiences incorporated in each course
- Classes offered at multiple sites
- Student friendly
- Faculty are accessible.

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To: