

Project DEVELOP

News



Look us up on the Web
<http://www.education.sfasu.edu/se>

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Partnering Districts

What is Project DEVELOP?

Project DEVELOP is a three year partnership between Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) and 21 high-need East Texas school districts. We are in our final year of the grant. Project DEVELOP is a grant written to promote leaders from within our partnering schools. Project DEVELOP stands for Developing an Entrepreneurial Vision for Exemplary Leadership and Ongoing Professionalism. The funding for Project Develop will continue through the second summer semester of 2008. Due to the interest shown from our partnering schools and the great need this program fills, we will be reapplying for the grant at the end of the current cycle.

Our major goals have not changed. We are interested in placing high quality principals, who can lead schools with diverse populations in East Texas. We have created a program that includes web-enhanced courses, quality face-to-face courses, appropriately chosen coaches, and student-selected mentors. The graduates of our program have already begun making a difference in their schools through the use of collaborative leadership strategies emphasized in the program.

We have made a concerted effort to ensure diversity in the identification and placement of these future school leaders. This has been accomplished through our conversations with our district coordinators. The district coordinators have helped us choose candidates for the program who represent the makeup of the schools in East Texas.

For students who qualify, Project DEVELOP will pay \$300 per course. 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.



Dr. Jill Martin, NASSP/Metlife National High School Principal of the Year

Dr. Ed Tobia speaks to Project DEVELOP participants

How are we doing?

We are proud to announce that we have once again surpassed our goal. The grant was initiated to recruit, prepare, and support up to 70 aspiring school administrators. To date, we have recruited 80 students for the program. At this time, eight of our students hold administrative positions. We are proud of the following students who have taken administrative roles in local districts.

Mr. Guy Barr– PrincipalWood Forest Elementary
Ms. Terry Bowlin – AP.....Tenaha Elementary
Ms. Tammy Cross – APJoe Wright Elementary
Mr. Hardy Dotson – APHenderson High School
Mr. Brandon Jones – APHallsville High School
Ms. Machele Robbins – APMarshall High School
Mr. Daniel Spikes – AP Lufkin High School
Mr. Scott Tyner – APTenaha

Mid-Winter Alumni Reception

The faculty and some of the Project Develop students held an Alumni and Friends Reception at this year's TASA Mid-Winter Conference held in January in Austin. The Milagro Consulting firm provided the refreshments for the meeting of alumni and friends of Stephen F. Austin State University. Dr. Alford introduced the faculty and alumni during the event. It was such an uplifting and relaxing way to enjoy the company of those who chose SFA as a means to further their education and professional careers.

Opportunities for Growth

This past year, Project DEVELOP students had several opportunities for professional growth beginning with the Courage to Lead conference held October 3, 2006, at the Stephen F. Austin State University Center. Dr. Ed Tobia. Dr. Tobia is a consultant with TEA and the National Staff Development Council. His presentation focused on developing lasting relationships between principals and teachers that will lead to continued school improvement.

On November 3, 2006, Project DEVELOP in conjunction with Phi Delta Kappa invited Dr. Nell Noddings the Jacks Professor Emeriti of Child Education at Stanford University to speak on the Ethic of Care. Dr. R. D. Hutto, superintendent of Nacogdoches Independent School District, spoke during the luncheon, and Dr. Jill Martin, the 2007 NASSP/Metlife National High School Principal of the Year, closed the day with some of her beliefs about school leadership. The presentations by each of these dedicated school leaders provided the students with a wonderful look at ethical leadership and the impact it has on a staff and a school.

To continue the concept of leadership development for the students, the Project DEVELOP program presented a Leaders of Learners conference on March 3, 2007. The day began with Dr. Mildred West, Superintendent of Kendleton ISD. She focused on the challenges that face today's schools and the leadership force that will be needed to meet these challenges. Dr. Heather Leaverton,

Project Coordinator for the Texas Higher Education Collaborative, also spoke on Leadership for Literacy. The day's activities ended with a panel discussion that included Ms. Phyllis Hill, the Texas Elementary Principal of the Year, Dr. Jason Mixon, the principal at Pine Tree High School, and Dr. Thomas Wallis, the Texas High School Principal of the Year. Through the question and answer period, these school leaders discussed their thoughts on how to strengthen math, reading, science, and AP courses.

Upcoming Events

Being a part of Project DEVELOP also means being a part of continued professional opportunities and this year will be no different. Project DEVELOP students will be offered the chance to take part in the Fall Leadership Institute presented by Project DEVELOP and Gear UP on September 18, 2007. The featured presenters are Dr. Todd Whitaker and Darrell "Coach D" Andrews. Dr. Whitaker will speak on What Great Principals do Differently and Coach D will address Closing the Achievement Gap.

Another opportunity will present itself to the Project DEVELOP students on November 30, 2007, when Dr. Randall Lindsey from California Lutheran University leads the Leadership Conference with his presentation "The Culturally Proficient School". Both of these events will be held on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University.

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

Student Comments about the Program

"You get close to the teachers and close to your cohort group - I see myself keeping in contact with both."

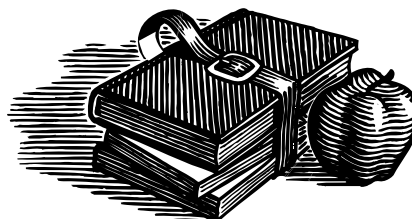
"The strongest element of the principal preparation program I have experienced is the ability of the professors to share real-life administrator experiences with the class and invite us to rationalize decisions made when problems are presented."

"The field experiences helped me the most because I had to get out there and actually do the job of a principal with the support from the actual principal."

"I have enjoyed participating in the networking opportunities and being introduced to professional development and conferences like TEPSA."

Students Presented at TASSP

Project DEVELOP students participated in the following sessions during the June TASSP conference. Dr. Ballenger presented on "Culturally Relevant Teaching and Instruction: Perceptions of Rural Secondary School Principals" and Dr. Stewart presented a study regarding the prevention of bullying that takes place on school campuses. Each participating student received a \$300 stipend to help defer some of their travel expenses. These students did a fantastic job with their presentations. Experiences like these are invaluable.



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](http://www.education.sfasu.edu/sed/forms/Principal_Preparation.pdf)*

Apply for admission to the Graduate School.

*[http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/
ProspectStudents/apply_req.html](http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/ProspectStudents/apply_req.html)*



Dr. Nell Noddings speaks to
Project DEVELOP Students

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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