

***Upcoming Events***

- April 22 Principals and Site Coordinators Workshop and Dinner
- May 3 MSDE PDS Conference at Ville Julie at Owings Mills



Thanks to all who made our NCATE visit and review so successful.



We added these 2 lovely crystal awards to our showcase. The AACTE award is on the left and the NAPDS award is on the right.

**NCATE ACCREDITATION**

Official word just received :

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education's accreditation board in Washington, D.C informed us this week that after a rigorous and intense visit accreditation has been continued for the professional education unit at Towson University. We thank our school partners for their assistance during this review process. It was our university partners and school system visits at North County High School and Grove Park Elementary School that contributed to our success. We are most happy to share this news of our continued success in teacher preparation !



**TWO NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION !**

**The Edward C. Pomeroy Award:**

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) presented Dr. Thomas Proffitt and the Towson University Professional Development School Network with an Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teacher Education at the Association's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Exhibits in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Edward C. Pomeroy Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teacher Education recognizes outstanding contributions to teacher education, either through distinguished service to the teacher education community or through the development and promotion of outstanding practices in teacher education at the collegiate, state, or national level.

"A Community of Learners," has been the theme of the Towson Professional Development School Network since 1994 and Dr. Thomas Proffitt was an initiator of the Professional Development School implementation in Maryland, in Owings Mills Elementary School. The goal was to prepare and sustain the abilities of candidates and teachers to teach effectively and have a positive impact on student achievement. This goal continues today with your collaborative efforts linking principles of best professional practice with contemporary research on reforms of both P-12 schools and teacher preparation programs. Congratulations to Dr. Proffitt and the PDS Network Schools!

**The Spirit of Partnership Award:**

The Spirit of Partnership Award is given at the National Association of Professional Development School Conference in recognition of an institution's ongoing support for partnerships and work in the Professional Development Schools. The award this year was presented to Karen Schafer and members of the Towson University Professional Development Network who were present at the annual NAPDS meeting.

Towson University and the PDS Network has been a major contributor to the success of the national conference and has the most conference presentations of any one partnership in the nation. But the award is not just about quantity; it's equally about quality, and the association has been very impressed with the quality of Towson's work and supportive information throughout the nine-year history of the conference. The national association and conference would not have reached the level of success it has without Towson University's continued support, and for that reason they were very pleased to present the 2008 Award to Towson University.

**News from the MAT program**

MAT interns in Anne Arundel County developed some excellent service projects completed in their first placement. All of these projects are directly correlated to the School Improvement Plan, approved by the school administration, site and PDS coordinators and mentors. Baseline, interim, and summative data collection and analysis are components of each project.

Mary Yau (ECED) worked with an identified group of first grade students at George Cromwell ES, targeting word recognition and fluency. Her project had a strong home outreach component.

Kelly Bauman and Laura Wilson established Homework Clubs for students at North Glen ES. Kelly targeted math with the fifth grade students and Laura worked with a multi-age group (grades one and three). The object of both of these projects was to provide encouragement and support for students who habitually fail to complete homework assignments. The interns aimed to provide time, opportunity and support for the students and, eventually, the good work habits required to complete these assignments independently.

Bonnie Veronda (ECED) planned, organized a very well-attended and successful Math Night for the pre-K and K students and their parents at Ferndale Early Education Center. The parent outreach has been well-received and appreciated.

Bridget Lanigan worked with the Anne Arundel County Public Library and the media specialist at Park to develop an excellent parent-child literacy project in her first grade classroom, which included trips to the library, library cards for the students, and regular newsletters with tips and book suggestions for the parents of her first graders.

Angela Moses, Jessica Fansler and Sabina Sully (ELED) participated in an important one-on-one mentoring project at Park ES. Both interns and students profited from this project.

Melissa White and Amy Cerulli (ECED) worked with targeted Kindergarten students on early letter recognition and letter/sound relationships. The additional help and attention these students are receiving is already showing results in the classroom.

**Carole Powell, MAT**



Harford County MAT interns met at Edgewood Elementary for a presentation about Classroom Learning Systems by these 5th grade students and their teacher, Mentor Kim Miller.

**Judy Reber, MAT**

**TIMS—Electronic Evaluation of Interns**

The Center for Professional Practice would like to thank all the mentor teachers for their cooperation and patience in using the TIMS program. A new version of PeopleSoft was implemented on our TIMS database in January creating some unforeseen problems.

Remember that you need to return your contract as soon as you receive your packet so we can either request a new account or re-activate your old account. All account information is emailed to you using the email account you listed on your consultant agreement. Please expect a week or two turn-around before you receive your TIMS information.

One of the most common problems we hear is the account information will not allow you to get into PeopleSoft. Remember that numbers follow the capital W in your username (e.g. W0123456) and the password uses the first two letters of your first and last name and the last four digits of your username (e.g. Jane Dear would be JADE3456) This is more detailed in the TIMS directions in the email you received.

If you encounter any problems, please call 410-704-2567 or email TIMS@towson.edu and someone will be able to help you.

**Janet Martin, CPP**

**Nakida Hagans, CPP**

**Congratulations to our PDS Blue Ribbon Schools**

- \* Bainbridge Elementary School
- \* Burleigh Manor Middle School
- \* Centennial Lane Elementary School
- \* Hickory Elementary School
- \* Ridgely Middle School



**PDS Network Facts**

- \* 615 interns graduated this year.
- \* Towson partners with 115 different school sites in 12 school systems.
- \* Towson interns spent 12,300 hours in service learning this year in PDS's.