



# School of Education NETL CONNECTIONS



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER, 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

### NETL MAJOR OBJECTIVE

Western New Mexico University proposes to reduce the growing teacher shortage in New Mexico by creating an easily accessible option for teacher licensure and endorsement course work through its Network for Web-based Teacher Licensure (NeTL).

¡Bienvenidos to our fall issue of this year's NeTL newsletter! As you know, our fall Semester



Dr. Patricia Manzanares-Gonzales

marks new beginnings. We welcome new students, staff, and faculty with renewed energy and dedication. We share our pride in SOE

programs and courses, and through this newsletter demonstrate how the NeTL program supports our online course development.

Please, join me in extending congratulations and a warm welcome to our new School of Education faculty and staff including: Dr. Shirley Weaver, Director of Field Experience., Drs. Phillip Barbee (Counseling—Silver campus), Melinda Salazar, (Education Generalist—Gallup campus), and Elaine Jordan (Counseling—Gallup

campus). Ms. Lorraine Silva is now Acting Program Manager in the Silver SOE Office. Graduate students working for SOE include: Jaime Trujillo, Adam Herrera, Bill Risdon, Crescent Rodgers, and Darian Shaw.

This fall semester at WNMU, the School of Education is offering 31 online courses with 626 students. These courses are listed on the last page of this issue of the newsletter.



*The SOE logo uses a classic Mimbres black-on-white geometric bowl from the Eisele Collection of Southwestern*

*Artifacts and Pottery, a permanent collection of the Western New Mexico University Museum (Accession Number 73.8.337). The prehistoric Mimbres people made the bowl between A.D. 1000 and 1140 during the Classic Mimbres period. For more information about the Eisele Collection, the SOE logo vessel, and other Mimbres pottery and artifacts, please visit the Western New Mexico University Museum.*

Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Please send all comments to:

[netconnections@wnmu.edu](mailto:netconnections@wnmu.edu)

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## SOE SCHOLARSHIPS

During the fall Semester, 2009 the School of Education will disburse over \$25,000 in scholarship monies from endowed scholarships overseen by the WNMU Foundation Office. Students with education majors may choose to apply from thirteen scholarships with varying criteria.

This semester students turned in applications by September 24, 2009. This year, 30 students applied for these funds. The School of Education notified applicants of their scholarship awards in mid-October.

### Available Scholarships

Hazel Sechler-Inez Rhoades  
Education Fund Scholarship  
Hazel Sechler-Inez Rhoades PEO  
Scholarship  
Margaret M. Jones Scholarship  
Stella Vaughn Scholarship  
Christine Drangmeister-Twenty  
Four Club Scholarship  
Don C. and Della H. Montoya  
Tutorial Fund Scholarship  
Olive Marlow Smithson  
Scholarship  
Beth Bingaman Scholarship  
Dr. Haddon and Eunice James  
Teacher Education Scholarship  
Rotary Scholarship  
John L. Taylor Scholarship  
Arthur H. Bach Memorial  
Scholarship

There is one additional scholarship, the John (Jack) A. and Arley Reece Scholarship. The School of Education is one of four departments involved in the selection process for this scholarship.

Scholarship information is available for viewing online on the WNMU homepage in the "Alumni" dropdown menu. Within that page, choose "Scholarships" to view details. Applications will be accepted for Spring awards.

It is with great pleasure that these scholarships are awarded to applicants completing all scholarship application requirements.

## Conferences Of Interest      Recommended Resource

### November 13-14, 2009

Challenging Child Conference  
Silver City, New Mexico.

[http://www.wnmu.edu/What's New/Conference](http://www.wnmu.edu/What's%20New/Conference)

### November 4-6, 2009

EDUCAUSE Annual Conference  
Denver, Colorado.

<http://net.educause.edu/Program/1020918>

### December 3, 2009

Campus Technology 09 Virtual Conference  
Toronto, Canada.

<http://campustechnology.com/virtual>

### February 19-22, 2010

AACTE 62nd Annual Meeting-Preparing  
Educators for the New World, Atlanta, Georgia.

<http://www.aacte.org>

### June 27-30, 2010

ISTE.2010  
International Society for Technology in  
Education, Denver, Colorado.

[www.iste.org/conference/2010](http://www.iste.org/conference/2010)



### free online dictionary and thesaurus

Although hard and soft-cover dictionary usage has fallen drastically in the last 10 years, the need for a dictionary and/or thesaurus still exists. If you and/or your students now prefer online sources rather than books; or if you have had a hard time finding a free online dictionary and thesaurus, Kathleen McClaskey, president of Ed-Tech Associates recommends the free WORDWEB resource at:

<http://wordweb.info>

By simply highlighting (selecting) a word, the tool checks the spelling or provides a synonym.

## ONLINE MEXICAN STUDENTS VISIT WNMU

WNMU online students from Mexico used their holiday for a visit to the Silver City campus. School of Education Dean, Patricia Manzanares-Gonzales, welcomed the students to the School of Education and WNMU on September 16th.

The students got lunch as part of the WNMU Mexican Independence Day Celebration and ate with School of Education faculty and staff including: Dr. Ann Harvey, Dr. Barb Taylor, Dr. Margarita Wulftange, Dr. Manny Bustamante, Dr. Alejandra Neves and new acting SOE Administrative Coordinator, Lorraine Silva.

After lunch, Manuel Rodriguez, NeTL Program Coordinator, responsible for recruitment, introduced Dr. Farron, Vice President for Student Services, who warmly welcomed the participants to the WNMU campus. Dr. C.A. Carey, Faculty Developer for the WNMU Virtual Campus, Extended University, provided information on the planned Blackboard assistance session; and after the visiting students introduced themselves, they took advantage of opportunities to interact personally with their online SOE faculty. During this time, participants discussed their courses, asked questions, and got acquainted personally with their SOE teachers.

After lunch, students met in the GRC where they participated in the Blackboard 'help' session with Rich Hellboch, and David Leyba who answered questions and presented new resources designed specifically to assist online students. The day concluded with a special campus tour led by Abe Villarreal. Included was a special opportunity to preview the new WNMU Arboretum. One of the most popular stops included the bookstore where WNMU memorabilia including baseball caps proved popular. Students also

enjoyed visiting the WNMU Museum.

Although the one-day trip back and forth from Juarez was lengthy, students commented positively on the many opportunities for personal interaction during their visit. Being able to take online courses at WNMU while living in another country is a great opportunity students agreed; and as they ended their campus trip, students overwhelmingly agreed that campus staff, faculty and administrators really cared about their success as online WNMU students.

**Visiting students included: Brenda Herrera, Alejandra Aldana, Beatriz Tapia, Erliicka Casas, Miriam Rodriguez, Omar Gonzalez, Carlos Casas, Aaron Loeza, Adolfo Monoy, Erick Vega, and Luis Ramirez.**



### LOST IN THE SHUFFLE: NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS NEED HELP TOO!

By Barbara Taylor, Ed.D.

Have you ever wondered why college orientations are only given to undergraduate students? SOE faculty thought that new graduate students also need help to survive in their new educational challenges so they hosted an orientation program on September 24<sup>th</sup> that focused on topics useful to new graduate students.

Dean, Dr. Patricia Manzanares-Gonzales provided an introduction to SOE. Registrar Betsy Miller then discussed advising and registration.

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Marcia Bourdette talked about graduate assistantships and available work. University librarian, Dr. Gilda Ortega highlighted the online "Ask a Librarian" feature and distributed bookmarks with database access information, and Webmaster Dean Foster presented tips for Mustang Express and Blackboard Vista: WNMU Foundation Executive Assistant, Suzanne Triviz-Harrigan explained how to apply for Foundation scholarships.

Door prizes and snacks were followed by

"Tips for Surviving Graduate School" including Dr. Barbara Taylor, faculty member in secondary and career and technical education discussing What is Graduate Education and Its Expectations? and Dr. MacGregor, counseling faculty presenting Taking Care of Yourself. More door prizes and student questions rounded out the orientation.

Dr. Debra Dirksen, who taped the orientation will make a digital version available online.

## **E-portfolios in Online Courses :**

### **Why There are Transitioning Difficulties Despite**

### **Best Practice and Research Benefits**

By Dr. C.A.Carey

- Students overwhelmingly favor course capstone projects such as E-portfolios, if only because such projects avoid the necessity of compiling huge paper notebooks stuffed with documents which are never again used.

***"I have a product that goes with me when I graduate, and one that helps me get a good job. You can't beat that!"***

***E-portfolio User***

- FERPA advocates are spared having to deal with complaints related to stacks of these notebooks left graded with student names outside of faculty offices for pickup.
- Environmental advocates are overjoyed with the decreasing paper usage, and.
- Faculty beam with pride as they share these more professional end-products with colleagues.
- Researchers advocate for e-portfolio usage increases.

So, if everyone agrees that E-portfolios are so great, why aren't we all using them? The technology is there, and relatively easy, especially for our students. Almost all leading Learning Management System providers such as Blackboard provide E-Portfolio tools. We can't disagree with the benefits both short and long-term. Yet progress in actual faculty E-portfolio adoption is slow.

As a WNMU faculty developer, assisting faculty in improving their courses, I continue to see faculty resist using the tool in their own courses. Although tempted to blame faculty because they have opportunities to receive all kinds of support for the technology that would enable their use of tools like E-portfolios, I realize that is not the answer. When I actually analyze and identify reasons for faculty failure to incorporate new technology tools as they work to improve their courses, I end up seeing my own failure to assess real faculty\_training needs.

I can only conclude from recent reviews of 'change literature' that my failure is more holistic. I have joined many others who ignore the major problem involved in actually implementing technology isn't the learning or committing to the change, it is overcoming our own resistance to change. This basic human resistance to change itself makes the actual adoption of new technology difficult-even if we know, understand how to use and fully believe in the technology..

I had forgotten that change itself is hard work, and that change projects are seldom successful unless we learn how to deal with our own change personality. Successful faculty development programs often provide opportunities to learn how to successfully adapt to change personally and professionally. Learning more about what makes us resist change and how to overcome that resistance might not be technology training but it is necessary if technology is to be successfully adopted.

**Change resources are available from  
Dr. Carey at: [dietschcareyc@wnmu.edu](mailto:dietschcareyc@wnmu.edu)**

## FIELD EXPERIENCES AT THE SILVER CAMPUS



**By Dr. Shirley Weaver**  
**Director of Field Experience**  
 SOE, WNMU  
 Silver City,  
 New Mexico

The field experience component of the WNMU Teacher Education Program is instrumental in the process of developing highly qualified teachers. There are three levels of field experience offered to School of Education (SOE) students and each level operates at a differing level of understanding and responsibility.

### **Field Experience Levels**

- |   |
|---|
| <b>1. Foundation Level</b>                        |
| <b>2. Application &amp; Reinforcement Level</b>   |
| <b>3. Practice Teaching at the Capstone Level</b> |

Fifteen students began working at the Foundations level on September 3rd. This exploratory field experience provides opportunities for students to observe in several classroom situations. Silver High School, Silver Opportunity School, La Plata Middle School, Harrison Schmitt and Central Elementary schools, and the WNMU Child

Development Center have graciously allowed WNMU students to observe in their classrooms. The observations will continue until December 3<sup>rd</sup> when students working at this level will have completed 48 hours of observations and be eligible to move to the next level of field experiences.

Intermediate field experiences at the Application and Reinforcement level are also under way for twenty-one students at the Silver campus. At this intermediate level, the students are assigned to one classroom and are expected to take part in the activities of the classroom. Typically, the intermediate field experiences are 30 to 60 hours of classroom experience and the students will work on tasks assigned by the classroom teacher. WNMU students are currently working at Stout Elementary School, Silver High School, and Cliff High School.

At the capstone level, the SOE has twenty-one additional students currently enrolled in practice teaching. Practice teaching is the culminating experience for all teacher-candidates. At the SOE, the practice teaching experience aligns directly to the development of the dossier which is required of New Mexico teachers to advance in performance and licensure.

The general intent of the practice teaching experience is to facilitate the transition from college student to beginning teacher. The practice teachers spend seventeen weeks in one classroom, where they gradually take over the teaching duties and successfully demonstrate the professional behaviors and dispositions of a professional teacher. The SOE has nine students placed in the Silver School District, five are in the Cobre

District, and three are located in the Deming District. In addition, one practice teacher is at Albuquerque Public Schools, one is placed in Truth or Consequences and two are placed in Arizona districts. These students participate in the bimonthly meetings online.

In addition to teaching duties, SOE practice teachers also complete several projects to demonstrate mastery of the practice teaching exit requirements. Among other projects and the completion of their professional dossier, they conduct original research and present it at WNMU's Global Resource Center. This semester's Action Learning Presentations are scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 until 3:30. Interested parties will also be able to view the practice teacher's portfolio (dossier) and congratulate these hard working student on completing a rigorous course of study and becoming highly qualified teachers.

*"There is not enough gold in the world to equal the value of a really good teacher."*

*- anonymous Student*

## *FOCUSING ON FOOD OR VYING FOR VITTLES*

By Barbara Taylor, Ed.D.

Grant County is experiencing an extremely high rate of unemployment (12.5% as of September 1) that is causing the local food pantry to experience empty shelves regularly. In this current economic downturn, many people don't know where or when their next meal is. In addition to the current high rate of unemployment, endemic "poverty affects nearly 20% of Grant County's population directly and the rest of the county's population indirectly through lost productivity and loss of human and financial resources (Volunteer Center Newsletter, July, 2009). This issue even affects students attending Western New Mexico University according to Maria Dominguez, Director of United Campus Ministry, Multicultural Affairs and Student Activities, who assists students in addressing their basic needs. In educating the community about the problem and in examining what could be done, WNMU students, staff and faculty together with the Volunteer Center of Grant County are participating in activities to learn about reducing reliance on food pantries, eradicating hunger, eliminating food

insecurity and seeking solutions for food sustainability. Recognizing hunger and food insecurity as basic needs has resulted in a variety of classes exploring the issue.

Teacher candidates in the Secondary Curriculum and Instruction class were discussing the diversity found in today's classrooms and issues of Social injustice they might encounter. They discussed ways they could involve their students in projects that allowed students to "give back" and see the importance of helping others. Learning about the university's Food Security Project led to their project to raise dollars for the food pantry through the sale of raffle tickets on gift baskets of products and services. They selected this project when Dr. Emma Bailey, Sociology professor and Coordinator of the WNMU Food Security Initiative visited their class and discussed the multiplier effect. If each student brought in a can of soup, it would cost them \$1, but if they each gave the Food Pantry \$1, nine cans of soup could be purchased for every dollar. This astonishing fact sold them on the need for raising money for the Food Pantry's empty shelves. The Food Pantry (Grant County Community Food Security Center) has two purposes: (1) to meet the immediate needs of county residents that don't get enough to eat and (2) to build

community around the concepts of food justice, local self-sufficiency and sustainability (Volunteer Center Newsletter, July, 2009)

Each class member visited businesses all over Grant County and secured donations of products and services and four gift baskets were prepared. Three baskets are valued at \$300 and one basket is valued at \$400. Winning tickets were drawn on October 16, World Food Day and the winners were notified by phone. They were: Basket #1—Christy Gonzales of Wells Fargo Bank, Basket #2—Dr. Kathy Gilbert, Basket #3—Lynette Allison, and Basket #4—Dr. Phillip Barbee. \$750.00 was raised for the Food Pantry. The students want to thank everyone for participating in this worthy cause.

With the current economic climate, hunger may not be eradicated, but through this project and others throughout the University, attention is being given to the problem and students and others in the community are being educated about the issue in an effort to reduce reliance on food pantries, eliminate food insecurity and seek solutions for food sustainability.

## ONLINE CLASS PARTICIPATES IN ACTION RESEARCH CONFERENCE IN REAL TIME

BY DR. BARBARA TAYLOR

The first weekend in June found online students from WNMU's EDUC 503 Action Research and ENMU's ELED/SED 532 Technology Rich Environment at the Center for Teaching Excellence's 17th conference on Action Research in real time in Taos, New Mexico. WNMU students came from Gallup, Silver City, Zuni, Deming, and Socorro to learn about action research projects being conducted around the state including projects presented by students from WNMU's Gallup campus. Meals on the hotel patio followed by discussions in the morning and Native American dancers at night provided the opportunity for students to meet and mingle and develop friendships and working relationships to help each other with their projects. Students from both classes worked together to plan projects and proposals with the collaborative meeting at the AR Conference helping to create an almost instant learning community. Participation in the conference was a perk of both courses provided by a grant from the Center on Teaching Excellence that was received by WNMU faculty member, Dr. Barbara



Taylor and ENMU faculty member, Dr. Gail Gruber. The faculty members wrote a winning proposal that provided stipends that enabled the students to participate on site and in real time.

In addition to the regular conference sessions, students from both classes had their own session to learn about the requirements of their respective courses and how they could help each other. Students were placed in groups in areas of their interest and discussions between students in both classes were readily achieved and ideas abounded for conducting projects.

Following the conference students from both classes were surveyed as to what they thought about working together, meeting face to face at a conference and whether it enhanced their learning experiences and in what ways. Some of the comments from the students regarding how the conference enhanced their learning showed, "the conference was extremely helpful to me as it showed me AR in action." "It clarified action research for me, gave me wonderful examples of everyday classroom and school issues for which action research could be used, and allowed for important discussions with colleagues." "It was a way for colleagues in NM to see what others are doing

at their respective grade and subject area as well as be a forum for showcasing exceptional professionals." "Watching the various presentations allowed me to see how research can be presented other than through published articles in journals."

The class professors weren't sure how the collaboration would actually work since the students didn't know each other, but students revealed that "talking with the other group members was a really good way to flush out ideas and brainstorm." "An ENMU student helped me understand what type of literature I could consult... and provided useful information as far as narrowing my focus for research." "I was genuinely overwhelmed by the kindness, generosity, and hard work exhibited by all those in attendance."

Unfortunately, this year was the last year that the conference will be held due to budget constraints across the state. Participants suggested ways to continue the conference because the majority felt that what they learned was invaluable for their future careers as teachers.

## SOE HIGHLIGHTS

### Publications, Presentations, and Announcements:



**Dr. Deb Dirksen, and Dean Manzanares-Gonzales** attended the NCATE conference in Las Vegas, August 11-14th.

**Dr. Alexandra Neves, Dr. Barb Taylor, and Dr. Deb Dirksen** attended the PDS Network in New Mexico on September 25th in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**Dr. Alexandra Neves** is faculty sponsor for The Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO).

**Dr. Phillip Gonzales** is faculty sponsor for The Sign Language student club.

**Dr. Manzanares-Gonzales** attended Governor Richardson's Higher Education Summit on September 30—October 2, 2009 in Albuquerque, NM.

**Dr. Manzanares-Gonzales** attended the Renaissance Conference in Arlington, VA. on October 4—6, 2009.

**Drs. Linda Hoy and Candelario Jauregui** will attend the Principal Mentoring Core Team training provided by Dr. Kathy O'Neill on the SREB Mentoring School Leaders Module for mentors who are working with new or provisionally licensed principals on November 2-3, 2009 in Albuquerque, NM.

**Dr. Julie Horwitz, GGSC**, will present "Collaboration from Afar: Utilizing Technology as a Mechanism for Support" with Dr. Ryan Flessner, Indiana, at the 2010 ATE conference.

**Dr. Manzanares-Gonzales** attended the TECSCU Board Meeting and also presented as part of a panel of deans at the TECSCU Conference on, "Making Lemonade: How Education Deans Promote Progress in the Face of Diminishing Resources."

**Dr. Deb Dirksen** is attending the Brain-Wise Conference in Albuquerque, NM October 30, 2009.

**Dr. Deb Dirksen, Dr. Barb Taylor, Dr. Alejandra Neves, and Dr. Margarita Wulfange** attended the NMTIE (Technology in Education) 2009 Conference in Ruidoso, New Mexico, October 21-23. Drs. Dirksen and Taylor presented, "Teaching Online in Economically Challenging Times."

**Dr. Shirley Weaver** will be teaching EDUC 444/544: PD: Designing an Online Class for K-12 Teachers this spring semester, 2010! Classroom teachers, create a new ONLINE course this spring! This course is 100% online! Register soon for this coming spring! EDUC 444 (crn—20449) and EDUC 544 (crn—20463).



**A MUST FOR THERAPISTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS & HOME PROVIDERS**

*7th Annual Challenging Child Conference: Before the Tears and Tantrums Start*—see page 2 of this newsletter and/or go to the WNMU website for more information!



# School of Education NETL CONNECTIONS



## School of Education Main Campus

### Dean

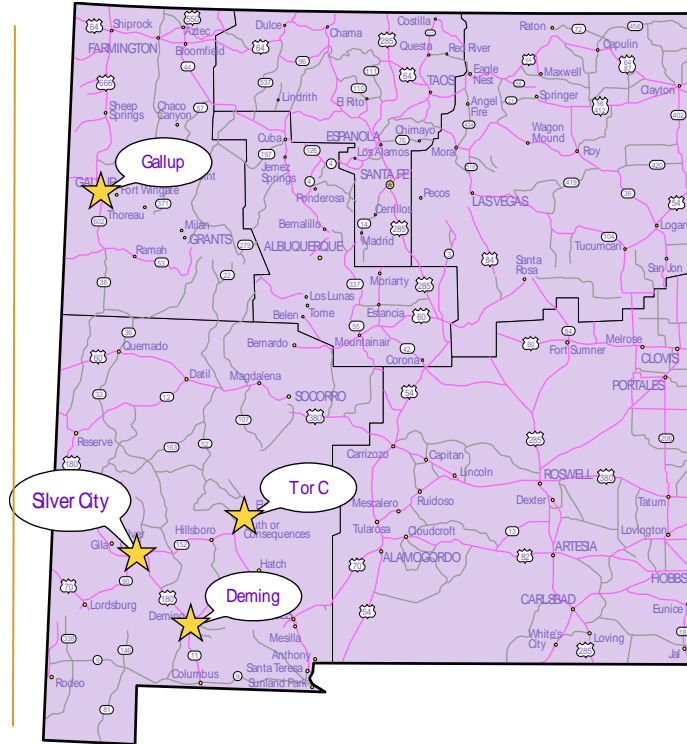
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### NeTL Information Resource Manager

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 (575) 538-6351



## Western New Mexico University

<http://www.wnmu.edu>

### Main Campus

1000 West College Avenue  
 Silver City, NM 88061  
 (575) 538-6011

### Deming

Mimbres Valley Learning Center  
 2300 East Pine  
 Deming, NM 88031  
 (575) 546-6556

### Gallup

Gallup Graduate Studies Center  
 2055 State Road 602  
 Gallup, NM 87301  
 (505) 722-3389

### T or C

T or C Gardner Learning Center  
 601 Sunset Street  
 Truth or Consequences, NM 87901  
 (575) 894-9050

## FALL 2009 - NETL COURSES

Online - 100% Internet Access		Online - 100% Internet Access	
BLED	414: Multicultural Education	SPED	552: Family/Schl/Comm Rel & Excep Ch
BLED	514: Multicultural Education	BLED	427: Linguistics 1 for L2 Teachers
BLED	541: Eng Lang Acq & Devel	EDL	525: Education in a Pluralistic Soc
BLED	441: Engl Lang Acquisition & Devel	EDUC	402: Computers in the Classroom
BLED	527: Linguistics 1 for L2 Teachers	EDUC	414: Elem Instrl Planning & Assess
RDG	411: Corrective Reading Instruction	EDUC	436: Classroom Management
RDG	412: Diag & Pres Rdg of Div Lnrs	EDUC	474: Classroom Assessment
RDG	453: Children's Literature	EDUC	506: History & Phil of Educ
RDG	511: Corrective Reading Instruction	EDUC	514: Elem Instl Planning & Assessment
RDG	512: Diag & Pres Rdg of Div Lnrs	EDUC	534: Integration of Tech in Curr
RDG	537: Literacy Teaching Applications	EDUC	536: Classroom Management
CTTE	403: Principles & Practices of CTTE	EDUC	564: TEP Field Experience
RDG	553: Children's Literature	EDUC	574: Classroom Assessment
SPED	412: Diag & Pres Rdg of Div Lnrs	ECED	331: Research in Child Gwth. & Dev.
SPED	452: Family/Schl/Comm Rel & Ex Ch		
SPED	512: Diag & Pres Rdg of Div Lnrs		