

Summit III – Big Ideas

Team 3 and Team 12 College of Education Technology and Resource Center

The Technology and Clinical Practice Aspiration Teams are collaboratively proposing a Technology and Resource Center (TRC) to serve all COE students, staff and faculty. The TRC will serve as a technology-rich resource hub and clearinghouse by providing and coordinating easily accessible resources, workspaces, and professional development activities.

RATIONALE

The goal of the Technology and Resource Center is to bring practitioners, university faculty, staff and students together to extend classroom opportunities and theory through developmental activities, supervised experiences and research. Research supports the need to create a professional development center focused on assisting students, faculty and staff in acquiring the necessary skills to use technology in developing materials, facilitating productivity, and improving student performance. The benefits will extend beyond the College environment to implement the COE's mission to prepare students for professional careers in the Memphis Metropolitan area, and create a community of practice via technology and professional development activities to enhance collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders.

RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

- Identify an available location for the TRC within the College of Education. A proposed future location is the Ball Hall Education Annex, currently an unfinished building north of Ball Hall, and identified as an easily accessible location that would encourage student, staff and faculty participation.
- Identify available resources such as graduate assistants dedicated full-time to providing resource coordination, assistance and support to students, faculty, and staff.
- Establish a TRC planning and advisory council representing all COE departments and representation from community partners. This council will establish short and long term priorities for the TRC.
- Coordinate across departments and offices within the COE to provide professional development based on individual program and departmental needs.
- Provide the appropriate levels of support for the technological tools by coordinating resources and creating a systematic infrastructure dedicated to providing, maintaining, and distributing currently available educational and technological resources.
- Conduct student, staff and faculty development activities using identified community- and campus-based resources.

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Team 10 Ph.D. Programs

Big Idea: The College of Education actively promotes the development and continuation of a strong research culture.

RATIONALE

A hallmark characteristic of an academic environment that is *leading* in its respective areas is the presence of a culture in which the generation and dissemination of new knowledge are normal and highly valued expectations of its participants. In education, much of that new knowledge will have practical applications which may better the lot of both individuals and communities. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to establish and maintain an environment that facilitates this process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

- Strengthen and/or promote extensive research component in doctoral programs so that graduates are aggressively sought after nationally by prospective employers
- Build research teams w/ existing faculty having common and/or complimentary interests
- Fill graduate faculty vacancies with individuals who will enhance one of the research foci in the department or concentration: expand research teams w/ new hires
- Increase logistical/administrative support for tenure-track and tenured faculty to conduct research
- Emphasize first-year *honeymoon* period for new faculty to initiate research agenda
- Increase emphasis on faculty development in research enterprises
 - Increase faculty development for obtaining external grant/contract acquisitions (initial proposal writing and associated activities)
 - Increase faculty logistical support for external grant/contract acquisitions
- Increase graduate research assistant support
- Initiate formal poster displays/presentations of final dissertation defense including identification of program and major professor
- Continue formal poster displays throughout the COE of research presented by faculty and/or students at national/international meetings
- Increase quality and number of national presentations/publications collaboratively developed by faculty and graduate students
- Develop COE website highlighting faculty and student research
- Develop research strand focused on Memphis metropolitan area

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Team 15 COE Urban Focus

Big Idea: The COE is committed to engaging in activities and partnerships, aligned with our urban mission, that benefit our local community and merit national recognition.

RATIONALE

- Memphis typifies the opportunities and struggles of a large urban center.
- The COE could become nationally recognized for its work in urban education.
- This idea connects to a range of issues, including public education, economic prosperity, public health, & social justice.
- Chance for COE to demonstrate leadership, relevance, and engagement.
- Having a positive impact could improve the quality of life for *all of us* who live and work in the Memphis metropolitan area.

RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

- Build on our current expertise and prominence in areas such as urban literacy.
- Host annual Urban Education Symposium with nationally recognized speakers.
- Provide other open forums where COE community members committed to this work can plan and focus our efforts.
- Engage directly with the school district, community agencies and others in action-oriented partnerships that benefit our community.
- Help faculty from *all* units see ways they might contribute to our urban mission.
- Recruit new faculty with expertise in urban issues.
- Create a one-year COE Research Fellowship related to urban education.
- Increase number of proposals for external funding framed around urban issues.
- Increase number of presentations and publications by COE faculty on the topic.
- Continue to highlight urban education issues in our professional development.
- Actively promote and enact the COE Diversity Standards.