Please note: All available positions are contingent upon funding.

Dean’s Office

No positions available this week.

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Educational Policy, Research and Administration

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS -  Center for International Education
Spring 2006. Part-time/Full-time (10-20 hrs/wk)

Responsibilities include: Research, training, curriculum development, evaluation and administration in connection with both international and domestic formal and nonformal sectors. Responsibilities are generally dependent upon funding source.

Qualifications include: research, training, curriculum development, evaluation and administration in connection with international education both in the nonformal and formal sectors.

Applicants should send a resume and a letter specifying background and skills by December 16, 2005 to Barbara Gravin Wilbur, CIE, 285 Hills South, UMass Amherst or cie@educ.umass.edu

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Office of Teacher Education

No positions available this week.

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Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services

No positions available this week.

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Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

No positions available this week.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The School of Education seeks nominations for its Outstanding Teacher Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in teaching and to honor individual faculty members for their teaching accomplishments. Any full-time faculty member who has been a member of the School for a minimum of three years and who has taught at least two semesters before being nominated is eligible. The deadline for nominations is December 16. To nominate a faculty member, please send a letter to Zinnia Wu at 124 Furcolo Hall or zinnia@educ.umass.edu

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Please list your Spire ID # when submitting your Master’s, CAGS or Doctoral forms or sending correspondence to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo. While the forms ask for a social security number, we are no longer using them for confidentiality reasons, to help protect against identity theft.

For the remainder of the Fall, 2005 semester, Irving Seidman will review all Human Subjects materials that are submitted by December 13th to Linda Guthrie in Room 123 Furcolo. During the winter term, the School of Education’s Human Subjects Review Committee will be unavailable. Reviews will continue beginning on January 23rd. If you have any questions concerning this, contact Linda Guthrie at 545-6984 or-lguthrie@educ.umass.edu.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

STEVEN B. JOHN Proposed Dissertation Title: "Teaching Teams and Student Achievement in Vermont’s Middle Schools." Statement of the Problem: In the 1990s many educators purposed that interdisciplinary teams of teachers working with students in middle grades 5-8 were more effective than traditional instruction in isolated disciplines. The purpose of this dissertation is to determine which team teaching characteristics and practices, if any, correlate with improvements in eighth grade student performance in mathematics, reading and writing.

Chairperson: Dr. Matthew Militello

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

LORRIE STARR December 19, 2005, 1:00 pm., Room 21C, Furcolo. "Factors Influencing Native Americans’ Completion of High School."

Chairperson: Dr. Brunilda De Leon

FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Joseph B. Berger has co-authored a new study issued by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation entitled Higher Ed Matters—The Reliance of New England States on Colleges and Universities To Sustain Their Population and Workforce. The study finds that college students, drawn to New England states for higher education opportunities, are having arguably the lone positive effect on the region’s population and workforce growth. As Joe notes: "The fact is the six New England states cannot continue to post feeble population gains—or outright losses in the case of Massachusetts—and still expect to enjoy the prosperity and quality of life we have come to expect. The influx of young in-migrants coming here for school purposes is the dominant demographic card we have left to play. If we lose them, we have lost the game."

Ronald K. Hambleton reports a new $150,000 contract (with Stephen G. Sireci) from Measured Progress, Inc. and the Massachusetts Department of Education for the time period between August, 2005 and June 2006. The goal of the project is to conduct several technical studies to investigate the validity of the MCAS. One study, for example, will be to consider the extent to which the current MCAS assessments are consistent with the curriculum frameworks that schools in Massachusetts are expected to be teaching. Ron also has a new publication, edited with D. Bartram: Computer-Based Testing and the Internet, New York: John Wiley and Sons, 2006. The goal of this edited book containing 12 chapters is to provide readers with up-to-date information about the impact of computers and the Internet on approaches for assessment in education, industry, and psychology. The impact includes the use of new test designs that can shorten the amount of testing without any loss in measurement precision, and the use of new item types that permit the assessment of higher level thinking skills.

Sharon Rallis is serving as the current president of the American Evaluation Association, and recently completed a very successful annual AEA conference in Toronto. She also has a number of recent publications:


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Kathryn McDermott has the following 2005 publications and presentations:


Katie also has some future work on her platter, with a proposal accepted for **AERA 2006**:

- McDermott, Kathryn A. "Ideas and Institutions: The Political Dynamics of State Accountability Policy Development" and another Proposal accepted for the **2006 National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)** meeting held concurrently with AERA:
  - Integrating Psychometrics and Education Policy: An Interactive Symposium,” developed jointly with Steve Sireci.

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At the **Center for Educational Policy**, **Andrew Churchill** is evaluating a "data warehousing" partnership of seven western Massachusetts school districts. This local partnership has joined with the state Department of Education to pilot a statewide, state-local data warehouse system. The data warehouse, when fully implemented, will allow educators to easily analyze a wide variety of education data and use the results to improve instruction and management at the district, school, and classroom levels.

The Center for Educational Policy is beginning Year 2 of its evaluation and research support to the Massachusetts school leadership initiative, **State Action for Education Leadership Project (SAELP)**, conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, with funding from the Wallace Foundation. In 2005, the Center produced two reports for SAELP:


Year 2 SAELP research activities will include case-study analyses of district leadership models in two districts in which student achievement has outpaced expectations based on demographics: New Bedford and Framingham. The research team for this work includes Kathryn McDermott, Matthew Militello, Sharon Rallis, Andrew Churchill, and graduate students Ann Stephany-Kracauer, Roel Garcia, and Michael Fredette.

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**Seeking Information:**

For a Column in the next edition of the School’s Alumnae/ni Newsletter and for occasional updates in our weekly BEACON, please send information about recent (2005) publications, grants, activities, honors, and awards to **Laura Holland**, jlh@educ.umass.edu.

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