Please join us for
The COLLEGE OF EDUCATION’s GRADUATION CELEBRATION!!!
Thursday, May 8, 2014 - Campus Center Auditorium
5:00 – 7:00 PM
Program begins promptly at 5:45
Appetizers and beverages
RSVP to Joyce Tutun at jutun@educ.umass.edu

Good food, camaraderie, photo opportunities - don’t miss it!
Please RSVP. If you’re bringing guests, we need to know how many.
http://www.umass.edu/education/events/commencement-2014

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY
• Please submit general news and announcements to: dms@educ.umass.edu by 5:00 P.M. Friday for inclusion in the following issue.
• All assistantship notices will run in two issues.
• Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Kristin Tyler at ktyler@educ.umass.edu. These types of announcements will run for one week.

The Beacon is posted online every week. http://www.umass.edu/education/news/beacon
**Project Assistantship  Teach Bridges to the Future Program**  
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10 hr/week graduate assistantship is available for the fall 2014 semester to mentor, coach, and supervise middle and high school student teachers in the Teach Bridges to the Future program. This position will involve supporting the program’s EDUC 500S and EDUC 500M courses.

**Responsibilities include:** Meeting, observing, coaching, and supervising Teach Bridges to the Future teacher license candidates in school placements, communicating with teachers and administrators at school sites served by the Project, assisting in the documentation of pre-practicum and practicum fieldwork, and other duties as assigned by the project coordinator.

**Qualifications include:** K-12 teaching experience, preferably at the middle or high school level; excellent written and oral communication skills and excellent organizational skills; ability to work effectively with new teacher candidates, public school teachers and administrators, and College of Education faculty and staff. In addition, knowledge of technology and social media is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief letter of application and resume to professor Ruth-Ellen Verock-O'Loughlin at ruth-ellen@educ.umass.edu.

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**Research Assistantship**  
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

10 hr/week research assistantship is available for summer 2014.

**Responsibilities include:** data collection using participant-observation and qualitative interviewing techniques; travel to one or more field sites; data analysis using NVivo; and preparation of documents for publication.

**Qualifications include:** experience / familiarity with qualitative interviewing and data analysis; strong writing, organizational, and time management skills; ability to work both collaboratively and independently; familiarity with literature related to college access and choice; prior experience with NVivo; and prior research experience in Springfield schools (preferred).

To apply, please send a CV to Ezekiel Kimball at ekimball@edu.umass.edu.

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Project Assistantship
Office of Research and Engagement
One 10-20 hr/week project assistantship is available for summer 2014.

**Responsibilities include:** Assisting the Associate Dean for Research and Engagement with proposal development, grant management, workshops, report writing, and web development.

**Qualifications include:** Excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various constituencies in the United States and elsewhere - including faculty members, administrators, and students; appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in domestic and international contexts. Fluency in a language other than English is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV to educore@educ.umass.edu

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Project Assistantship
Office of Research and Engagement
Up to two 10-20 hr/week project assistantships are available for fall 2014.

**Responsibilities include:** Assisting the Associate Dean for Research and Engagement with proposal development, grant management, workshops, and report writing.

**Qualifications include:** Excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various constituencies in the United States and elsewhere - including faculty members, administrators, and students; appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in domestic and International contexts. Fluency in a language other than English is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV to educore@educ.umass.edu

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Graduate Student Research Assistantship USAID
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Jennifer Randall, (413)545-0227 (jrandall@educ.umass.edu).
Graduate Student Research Assistantship  
Educational Testing Service  
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration  
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).

Graduate Student Research Assistantship  
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Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration  
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).
FOR THE DISCUSSION COMMITTEE

RACHAEL LAWRENCE  Proposed Dissertation Title: The Promise of Portland: Teacher Professional Learning as a Tool for Turnaround

Statement of the Problem: This dissertation will explore the role job-embedded professional development played in turning around a failing elementary school.

Chairperson: Dr. Sharon Rallis

Graduate Student Research Assistantship  MA Department of Education
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

Responsibilities include: Conducting equating analyses; conducting multivariate statistical analyses simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).

Graduate Student Research Assistantship  Measured Progress
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

Responsibilities include: Conducting equating analyses; conducting multivariate statistical analyses simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Ronald K. Hambleton, (413) 545-0262 / RKH@educ.umass.edu
From the Graduate School’s Office of Professional Development (OPD) and it’s network of partners
Please note that some events require pre-registration.
Friday, May 2nd (11:00 AM – 6:00 PM)
Models to Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities
A Symposium at UMass Amherst
The Models to Medicine Center of the Institute for Applied Life Sciences has planned an exciting program of talks to showcase biomedical research pursuits that have been translated into therapeutic applications. The event will kick off at 11 AM with a Poster Session, and prizes will be awarded for the best graduate and postdoc posters! Dr. Eric Lander, President and Founding Director of the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, will deliver the keynote lecture. Students can register for a discounted rate of $10 (includes lunch) by registering through April 18th!

GrantSearch for Grad Students
Are you interested in grant searching information or support? Schedule a consultation with GrantSearch for Grad Students today! http://www.genbook.com/bookings/slot/reservation/30193566?bookingSourceId=1000

Access the Versatile PhD website to explore non-academic careers
Create a Versatile PhD Account: Logging in at www.umass.edu/gradschool/vphd with your Net ID will establish your credentials as affiliated with UMass Amherst and will allow you to access Premium Content.

Graduate Student Research Assistantship American Chemical Society
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of research design, classical test theory and item response theory.

Responsibilities include: Developing test score reports for group-level reporting in the context of higher education interim and end-course assessments; researching strategies for innovative item analysis reports using classical and modern test and item statistics; designing multiple item analysis report prototypes based using test and item data as well as item alignment data; assist with the development of protocols for the field-testing of report prototypes; attending project meetings; performing literature reviews of report development approaches; co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. April L. Zenisky, (413)577-2180 or azenisky@educ.umass.edu
ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS

ANNE LUNDBERG May 23, 2014, 11:00 a.m., Room 100 Furcolo. “Teachers Talk: A Case Study of the Experiences of Working Across Cultures with Immigrant Children and Their Families.”
Chairperson: Dr. Claire Hamilton

KAREN TALLMAN May 28, 2014, 1:30 p.m., Room 21C Furcolo. “A journal club: A scholarly community for preservice and inservice science teachers.”
Chairperson: Dr. Allan Feldman

MELINDA EICHHORN May 29, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Room 275 Hills South. “Critical pedagogy, policy, and practice in the transition experience for students with math learning disabilities in Mumbai, India.”
Chairperson: Dr. Cristine Smith

Teaching Assistant Orientation
The Center for Teaching & Faculty Development (CTFD) invites you to participate in the annual campus-wide Teaching Assistant Orientation (TAO) scheduled for Friday, August 29, 2014, from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm (registration starts at 8:15 am).

The Provost’s Office, CTFD, and the Graduate School co-sponsor TAO to provide graduate students new to teaching with a comprehensive opportunity preparation in their teaching responsibility. Additionally, TAO may serve to meet the departmental requirement for TA development as stipulated in the contract negotiated on behalf of TAs by the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO).

For more information about TAO, please visit the CTFD’s website: http://www.umass.edu/ctfd/teaching/ta_support.shtml

Activities sponsored by the Graduate School Office of Professional Development
Some require pre-registration.

Thursday, May 1st (1:00 PM – 2:30 PM)
Dealing with Difficult Students (a panel discussion)
At one time or another, you will likely be faced with a student who is confrontational, rude, difficult to motivate, etc. Often, a situation arises quickly and you have to deal with it on your feet. In this program, you will learn techniques for defusing a difficult situation. This event is sponsored by the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL). Lunch will be provided, and the event location will be shared upon registration: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CIRTL_050114
**Graduate Student Research Assistantship** The College Board

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).

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**Graduate Student Research Assistantship** Pearson

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).
Research Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

One 10 hr/week research assistantship is available for fall 2014.

Responsibilities include: The student will assist the psychometric methods (PM) coordinator in conducting a curriculum review of the PM courses as well as analyzing trends in graduate student admissions for the Master’s and doctoral programs.

Qualifications include: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics as well as knowledge of curriculum review around psychometric methods including classical test theory, item response theory, multidimensional scaling, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact Craig Wells at cswells@educ.umass.edu.

Graduate Student Research Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of research design, classical test theory and item response theory.

Responsibilities include: Providing consultation with regard to statistical and psychometric analyses; providing assistance regarding statistical software such as SPSS, SAS, LISREL and MPLUS; providing advice on research design and instrument construction; and coordinating consulting schedules and statistical workshops. Assisting faculty and students as needed.

To apply, please contact Dr. Craig S. Wells, (413) 577-1726 or cswells@educ.umass.edu