

College's Leadership and Technology Impress Congressman Jim Leach

During Dean **Sandra Damico's** annual summer trip to Washington, D.C., she asked Representative Jim Leach to visit the College of Education to see for himself the many terrific programs, people, and activities the College has to offer. And on the morning of July 2nd, he did just that.

His tour began in the Grant and Research Services Center where he met graduate student **Elise Filpot**, who was working on a grant for her history curriculum development project. After visiting with Filpot about her work in several communities throughout the state, Leach immediately suggested a valuable Perry, Iowa contact, who ended up helping the project succeed, both financially and ideologically.



Congressman Jim Leach discusses No Child Left Behind Act with Educational Administration students.

He visited with Educational Placement Office Director **Rebecca Anthony** about the exodus of Iowa's teacher education graduates, but embraced her term of calling our graduates "ambassadors" of The University of Iowa throughout the world.

"Iowa students are heavily recruited because they fulfill their commitments,"

Anthony said, "and many say they would stay in Iowa if they would be given the appropriate opportunity."

He also visited Educational Administration Professor **Carolyn Wanat's** Contemporary Management Strategies course, where graduate students expressed their concerns about the *No Child Left Behind Act*. "If all the professionals in the field say it doesn't work," Leach said, "we need to reexamine our efforts. We can have good intentions that end up being counterproductive."

John Achrazoglou, director of the College's Educational Technology Center, demonstrated the ePortfolio™ for him and explained the services offered by the Iowa Center for Assistive Technology and Educational Resources (ICATER).

The congressman left with many positive impressions of the College. "The University of Iowa College of Education is one of the most impressive schools of education in the country, based on its innovative technology and the high caliber of its faculty and students," he said. "The state should be proud of the leadership in education it provides—especially the enthusiasm in its high tech efforts."

—by Jill Fishbaugh

Education Firsts

The University of Iowa College of Education has a long history of firsts in education. From its earliest beginnings, Iowa's state leaders highly valued education—making teacher training a first priority by establishing the University just 59 days after Iowa officially became a state in 1847.

The College of Education continues this tradition of placing education first—exemplified through its innovative teaching methods, cutting-edge research, and wide-reaching service. The College recognizes these top accomplishments, activities, and merits of excellence in this monthly column.

Notable College of Education Firsts

1858—Five of the University's first six degrees conferred are granted to education graduates.

1872—The University creates the nation's first permanent college-level department of education.

1907—The School of Education establishes the first chair of pedagogy at an U.S. university.

1925—E. F. Lindquist joins the College as a research assistant. The future director of the Iowa Testing Programs, Lindquist will develop the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the American College Testing (ACT) Program Tests, used by elementary and high school students in every state in the country.

1977—Professor Duane Anderson establishes the Great Teachers Workshop, pioneered on the idea that the collective expertise of a group of practicing professionals will far surpass that of any outside expert. The workshops are now practiced in over 30 states.

1996—The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children chooses the College of Education as its headquarters, where it coordinates the activities of more than 40 member countries from its administrative space at the Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development.

1996—College establishes ePortfolio concept.

1998—Belin-Blank Center establishes the National Academy of Arts, Sciences and Engineering (NAASE). It is the first to admit outstanding high school seniors as full-time students at a major state research institution prior to high school graduation.

2000—The first South African Black Woman receives doctoral degree in music education.

2001—Professor Emeritus Harold Engen creates the profession's first online microcounseling course.

2001—First class of *Earn as You Learn*, an innovative master's level teacher preparation program in behavioral disorders, students graduate.

2002—Trademarks granted for Digital Backpack™, ePortfolio™, and Cyber Toolbox™.

Rehab Counseling Obtains \$750,000 for Master's Program

The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$150,000 for five years to Professor **Vilia Tarvydas** for her Long Term Training: Rehabilitation Counseling Master's Program project. The goal of the project is to increase the supply of qualified personnel available to state vocational rehabilitation agencies in Iowa and Region VII through outreach, recruitment, value-added education, and enhanced experimental learning strategies. The project will also maintain and upgrade the skills and knowledge of employed personnel through workshops, material development and dissemination, and generation of evidence-based practice through applied research.



Anthony demonstrates ePortfolio™ to Des Moines school administrators.

ePortfolio™ Project Nets \$215,150 Carver Grant

The College of Education will use a \$215,150 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to support Iowa teachers as they learn to use the ePortfolio™, a web-based framework for collecting, revising, and reflecting upon teachers' professional work. The ePortfolio™ provides an inexpensive, interactive medium for teachers and their mentors to document teachers' mastery of Iowa's recently adopted Teacher Quality Standards.

"The collaborative work with the Cedar Rapids Community Schools District and the Cedar Rapids Education Association has been particularly rewarding and productive," ePortfolio™ co-developer **Rebecca Anthony** said. "Working together,

we have developed an extremely useful tool that is free to all teachers and administrators in the state of Iowa."

Associate Dean **Jim Marshall** added, "The College of Education has long been committed to working closely with the public schools in Iowa. This project is one instance where we can build something new together."

The simplicity of ePortfolio™ and its relatively low cost, given that it relies only on off-the-shelf web authoring software, are two reasons officials with the Carver Trust give for deciding to award the grant to the UI College of Education.

The grant will fund the training of 300 early-career K-12 teachers from across Iowa. A recently launched website about the ePortfolio™ project can be viewed at www.education.uiowa.edu/carvertteachers

—by Stephen Pradarelli

Belin-Blank Center Secures \$1.5 Million in Federal Grants

The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development has secured nearly \$1.5 million in federal grants to extend the reach of Advanced Placement courses to some of Iowa's poorest schools and to partner with Israel in expanding the center's curriculum services to gifted middle school students.

The largest, a three-year, \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, will be used to bring AP courses and related training to 50 Iowa middle and high schools where more than 40 percent of the students receive free or reduced lunches.

"The Advanced Placement Incentive Grant brings Advanced Placement courses to Iowa students who would have missed this opportunity in their lives," said Professor **Nicholas Colangelo**, Belin-Blank Center director. "In order to have excellence, there has to be access."

AP gives students an opportunity to take college-level courses and exams while still in high school. The Iowa Online Advanced Placement Academy, administered by the Belin-Blank Center,

delivers AP courses to high school students across the state via the Iowa Communications Network and online technology provided by Apex Learning.

The academy has been extraordinarily successful. A report last fall by the College Board, which administers the national AP program, noted that for the first time ever more than 40 percent of Iowa's schools were participating in AP. Nationally, Iowa is ranked third in the nation in the percentage of growth of its AP programs.

"The AP Incentive Program is really an outreach effort to the schools who have students who don't necessarily see themselves as having potential, of excelling academically," said **Laurie Croft**, Belin-Blank Center administrator. "Research has shown that students who participate in AP courses have a greater chance of graduating from college with a four-year degree. This is especially true for minority and low-income students."

A separate federal grant of \$200,000 will be used to partner with Israeli educators to offer challenging mathematics and science curriculum to middle school students, not only during the center's summer programs for students, but also during an innovative year-round program. Students will be identified through the Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search (BESTS), using above-level testing for talented students in grades four through nine in an effort to discover students who need further educational challenges to fully realize their academic abilities.

—by Stephen Pradarelli

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