LERAC

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HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT 712 NORTH EUGENE STREET, GREENSBORO NC 27401 (336) 378.8823

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GCS ACT on the Web!

For more information, visit: http://www.gcsnc.com/gcsact/index.htm

LERAC WEBSITE WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!

Lateral Entry Resource and Advising Center Opens September, 2008

To increase support for and service to our lateral entry teachers, Guilford County Schools has opened a Lateral Entry Resource and Advising Center (LERAC). LERAC will help lateral entry teachers become successful teachers and leaders in Guilford County Schools through six major areas:

1. **Preparation:** LERAC will provide high quality preparation experiences, including a newly developed full 10-day LE orientation beginning in October 2008. LERAC is also responsible for the development and delivery of our GCS Alternative Certification Track.
2. **Advising**: Through consultation and resources, lateral entry teachers will receive comprehensive and up-to-date information about available licensure programs and GCS partnerships with local colleges and universities.
3. **Coaching**: Our lateral entry specialists will provide support beyond the first year through on-demand coaching to second and third year lateral entry teachers.
4. **Communication**: Through our webpage, newsletter, and e-mail, we will effectively communicate licensure, resource, and support initiatives available to GCS lateral entry teachers.
5. **Professional Resources**: LERAC will house a professional library of resources and will also disseminate professional resources through our webpage.
6. **Networking**: Our lateral entry specialists will provide multiple means of networking opportunities, including socials and speakers, which result in the formation of professional relationships that support professional success, job satisfaction, and retention. LERAC will also launch a LE buddy program later this fall.

First GCS ACT Cohort Off to Strong Start

GCS ACT Cohort I members pictured above: *Kneeling:* CeCe Taylor (Peeler); *L-R Front Row:* Pamela Herndon (GCS trainer/LE specialist), Nicole Moore (NHS), Jenny Ray (HP Andrews), Ashley Thorpe (Dudley), Dawn Tafari(GTCC Instructor), Viva Williams (Dudley), Tina Johnson(LE specialist); *L-R Back Row:* Cynthia Jeffries (Penn-Griffin), Kristy Hardy (HP Central),Tonia Purvis (Allen Middle), Jessica Bowers (SEHS), Jessica Graves (HP Andrews), Phillip Schutt (Smith), Rachael Smith (Ferndale), Deyonta Thacker (Smith), Jacklyn Fleming (Eastern). Not pictured: Christian Hill (NCA&T MC)

North Carolina's first and only in-house alternative licensure program, GCS ACT, kicked off this summer in partnership with GTCC. Participants completed EDU 3000, Foundations to Teaching in GCS, an 80-hour training in preparation for a strong school year start. Course topics included classroom management, diversity, instructional strategies, cooperative learning, assessment, and more! Participants also spent two days observing the first days of school at four early start GCS sites.

Upcoming Events

September 2008

4 New Teacher Reception, 5:00-7:00 PM Embassy Suites--Airport

23 Information /Advising Session: UNCG Licensure Program Options for Lateral Entry Teachers, 5:00-7:00 PM, PTA Board Room, 712 N. Eugene Street Warehouse / End Unit

30 Lateral Entry Networking / Social, 5 – 7 PM, Ham's Lakeside, 699 E. Cone Blvd http://www.hamsrestaurants.com/menu.htm

October 2008: More details to come in the Oct. Issue!

15 Information/Advising Session: HPU Licensure Program Options for Lateral Entry Teachers, 5:00-6:30, Location TBA

21 Lateral Entry Networking Opportunity, Guest Speaker, Lateral Entry Success, Evening Event

Resources for Success

Suggested Reading:

WHY DIDN'T I LEARN THIS IN COLLEGE? TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY by Paula Rutherford (Just ASK Publications)

FIRST-CLASS TEACHER: SUCCESS STRATEGIES FOR NEW TEACHERS (Publication of Canter and Associates)

Helpful Websites:

AEA 267 TEACHING STRATEGIES
Information on student-centered teaching and learning activities

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT: LEARN NC
Information on classroom design, organization, management and more, especially for new teachers

Need information on the PRAXIS II? Visit www.ets.org/praxis

Miss the 3-Day Right Start Orientation in August?

Register for the required Saturday, Oct. 4 Right Start Orientation make-up session. To register, visit http://www.solutionwhere.com/guilford/cw/showcourse.asp?2065
For more information, contact the Dept. of Induction and Success.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is my Lateral Entry Specialist?

The school and teacher assignments for the two lateral entry specialists are aligned with the assignments for the staffing specialists. **Tina Johnson** is primarily responsible for teachers working with the following staffing specialists: Crissi Lester, Terrik Higgins, Lindsay Yarbrough, and Tamatha Williams. **Pamela Herndon** is primarily responsible for teachers working with these staffing specialists: Falicia Rodgers, Beverly Neal, Landy Gilkerson, and La.Tonia Bennett.

What do I need to do by June 30, the end of the current academic year?

LE teachers are required to complete a minimum of six semester hours toward certification ANNUALLY and submit those hours in the form of an official transcript to your assigned staffing specialists. Documentation of completion or enrollment in coursework must be shown by June 30th of each year in order to secure your position for the following year. You must complete all licensure coursework and pass the Praxis II for your licensure area by June 30 of your third year. Newly hired LE teachers must associate with a college or university's approved teacher education program or submit licensure materials to the RALC within their first 30 days as an LE teacher.

What are the lateral entry networking opportunities?

Monthly networking opportunities are scheduled to provide additional support through both informal socials to talk and share ideas and guest speakers on topics of interest to lateral entry teachers. Get connected! Come network and have fun! The fall 2008 dates for networking are scheduled for the following Tuesday evenings: Sept. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16. Mark your calendars! Watch for more details in the LERAC newsletters.

Meet the Team

Tina S. Johnson serves as a Lateral Entry Specialist with the Lateral Entry Resource and Advising Center in Guilford County Schools. Tina started her professional career as an elementary foreign language teacher with Guilford Schools and has also served as a Parent Educator and Homeless Student Services Coordinator for the district. Tina has 15 years of combined educational experience as a university lecturer, parent educator, educational researcher, and professional development trainer. A professional highlight in her career was when she assisted the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Congress to compile federal data for addressing the needs of homeless students.

Tina received her B.A. in Education and English from University of North Carolina at Wilmington and her M.A. in Conflict Resolution from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2005. Her husband, Vernon, and son, Kenji, are the joys of her life.

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Pamela Herndon also serves as a Lateral Entry Specialist with the GCS Lateral Entry Resource and Advising Center. Pamela, a graduate of Grimsley High, started her professional career as an English teacher at Southeast High School. While there, she developed and coordinated Success 101, a transition course for ninth graders. She has also taught language arts at Kiser and Jamestown Middle Schools. Formerly at GTCC, Pamela was the director of the Teacher Education Academy, coordinator of the lateral entry and education pre-major programs, SNCAE advisor, and associate professor of English. One of Pamela's professional highlights includes being recognized with the GTCC Excellence in Teaching Award and President's Award for Outstanding Service and Innovation.

Pamela received her B.A. in English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; her studies included a year abroad at the University of Manchester, England. She earned her teaching certificate and Master of Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Pamela is married to Brian, her husband of 19 years and a GCS graduation coach. Brian and Pamela are the proud parents of two sons, Garrison and Colson.

Amy Holcombe currently serves as the Executive Director of Talent Development for GCS. She is responsible for a variety of development programs including Mission Possible, Cumulative Effect, GCS ACT, Lateral Entry Resource and Advising Center, Administrative Cohort, School Executive Evaluation, and Value-Add Data.

Amy joined Guilford County Schools in 1995 and has held major roles as a teacher leader, curriculum specialist, technology program director, principal, federal and special programs director, curriculum director, and human resources executive director. One of Amy's many achievements includes being recognized as the state's technology educator on two separate occasions for the development of statewide resources and curriculum integration programs for teachers and principals.

Amy holds a B.A. in English Journalism, a graduate certificate in Education, a M.Ed. in English, a Master of School Administration, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching.

Contact Information

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