LERAC

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LATERAL ENTRY RESOURCE AND ADVISING CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

336.378.8823
712 N. EUGENE STREET, GREENSBORO, NC 27401

Special Interest Articles

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Visit our Lateral Entry Resource and Advising Center Website at

http://www.gcsnc.com/HR/lateral/index.htm

First Year Lateral Entry Teachers Named GCS Rookie Award Finalists

Congratulations to GCS teachers Robin Britt and Dorinda Carver, two of the five finalists for the GCS Rookie Teacher of the Year Award.

Robin Britt, social studies teacher at Brown Summit Middle School, entered the teaching profession after working for years around the edges of education. After college, Mr. Britt worked with families in the Ray Warren public housing community in southeast Greensboro with a focus on adult and early childhood education. After earning two graduate degrees at UNC-Chapel Hill, he practiced education law as an attorney with Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP, serving various institutions in North Carolina. He also worked with Head Start and then opened a small company and developed an online literacy program for elementary teachers. Mr. Britt has also worked with youth through various programs at the Bryan Family (Central) YMCA. Although he found his work and service to be both challenging and stimulating, he still longed to make an impact on youth in the classroom as a teacher. In August of this year, he finally made the move to a new profession--teaching.

Deborah Mott, principal at Brown Summit Middle, says she feels extremely fortunate to have Mr. Britt on staff. "The fact that he has a law degree and his MBA but decided to forgo those lucrative careers and follow his calling to education speaks volumes of his commitment to his students and our school," shares Mott. "Mr. Britt demonstrates the highest level of professional commitment and competency in his work with students and colleagues."

Mr. Britt's success in the classroom is guided by the following principles: 1) Use only one superpower—LOVE. Fear, shame, and guilt destroy children's confidence, erode their self-esteem, and stifle their curiosity. Love is the only superpower that builds children up, salves wounds, and motivates children to take the major cultural risk of striving to reach their potential. 2) Fully differentiate. The only way to do this is to really know your students, to meet them where they are, and to create learning opportunities tailored to their needs and interests.

Principal Mott shares that Britt "gives generously of his valuable time, and

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*THANK YOU GCS Board of Education members **Paul Daniels** and **Amos Quick** for attending our Lateral Entry Networking at Liberty Steakhouse in High Point!*

Upcoming Events

April 2009

4	Praxis II Preparation Workshop 9 AM – 12 Washington Street Annex, 223
10	GCS ACT Cohort II Notification
13-17	GCS Spring Break
25	GCS ACT Frameworks 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
25	GCS ACT Professional Portfolios Due GCS ACT Teacher of the Year Application Deadline

May 2009

25	Memorial Day Holiday

June 2009

2	Lateral Entry Networking / End of Year Celebration, 5 PM-6:30 PM Watch for details next month!
15	Last Student Day

Professional Library

Check out these new arrivals in the Lateral Entry Resource and Advising Center Professional Library:

Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms by Gloria Ladson-Billings

Distributed Leadership by James P. Spillane

Responsibility at Work: How Leading Professionals Act, edited by Howard Gardner

Supported Literacy for Adolescents: Transforming Teaching and Content Learning for the 21st Century by Morocco, Aguilar, and Bershad

Teaching Content Outrageously: How to Captivate All Students and Accelerate Learning

Staffing Specialists:

Crissi Lester
lesterc@gcsnc.com

Terrik Higgins
Higgint2@gcsnc.com

Lindsay Yarbrough
yarbrol@gcsnc.com

Tamatha Williams
Williat6@gcsnc.com

Falicia Rodgers
rodgerf@gcsnc.com

Beverly Neal
nealb@gcsnc.com

Landy Gilkerson
gilkery@gcsnc.com

La.Tonia Bennett
bennetl@gcsnc.com

Frequently Asked Questions

I am a lateral entry BT 3 teacher. Can I have until the end of July to complete a summer course to finish my licensure program requirements?
No. All licensure program requirements must be met prior to June 30 of this academic year. There are no extensions for late summer classes for LE teachers in their third year. Official transcripts that document satisfactory course completion are due to your staffing specialist no later than June 30. LE teachers who complete an approved college or university licensure program should also provide your staffing specialist with a completed and signed Form V--Verification of Completion of an Approved Education Program. To access this form, click http://licensurepublic.dpi.state.nc.us/Licensure%20Forms%20pdf%20format/Form%20V.pdf . For more information, please contact your staffing specialist.

I am a lateral entry BT 3 teacher. I have met all of my course requirements but still need to take the Praxis II exam. Can I take the Praxis II exam in July?
You must take and pass the Praxis II exam prior to June 30 of this academic year. To receive your scores before June 30, you need to register for the **April 25** Praxis II test date. Registration for the test is required; early registration is encouraged as seats do fill quickly, especially for these late year test dates. For more information on Praxis II, visit www.ets.org/praxis and click on North Carolina test requirements.

To whom do I submit my Praxis II scores and my course transcripts?
You should request ETS to send a copy of your Praxis II scores to Guilford County Schools. All documentation of Praxis II scores and course completion should go to your staffing specialist. Please be sure to meet the June 30 deadline as there are no exceptions for third year lateral entry teachers.

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often his work extends well beyond the school day. He has organized extra-curricular activities, such as paintball, bowling, and laser tag, to deepen relationships with students and staff." Britt, a teacher leader, serves as a member of the School Improvement Team and a major contributor to the Magnet Schools of America recognition application. He is presenting at the Magnet Schools of America conference in April on differentiated instruction and technology tools that support it.

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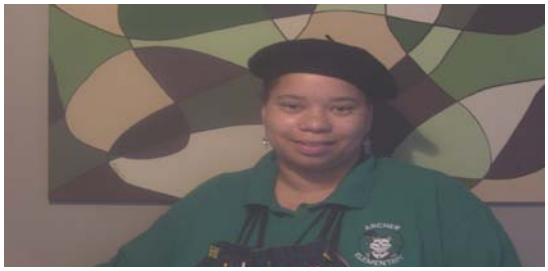
Dorinda Carver, art teacher at Archer Elementary School, inspires her students through her passion for art. Carver knows it's very important to make art relevant to the students and to reach across the curriculum to show how art is a part of this vast world around us. Doing so helps her students perform better in art *and* in other content areas, too. One of the areas she tries to incorporate into her art lessons on a regular basis is math, especially fractions and geometry, including perimeter, area, and symmetry. Elementary students seem to like and understand math more when it's connected to art.



Dorinda Carver in front of art mural at Archer

In addition to making lessons relevant and connected to other areas, Carver also shares her sense of humor with her students, who seem to enjoy it. "Students connect with you when you try to connect with them," she says. Carver chose to share her artistic talent as a teacher "to inspire and sculpt their minds." Doing so requires that she serve the students and make them her top priority.

Patrice Brown, Archer principal, explains, "Rarely have I witnessed a teacher who has the true gift to seek and discover the hidden potential in each student as I have in Dorinda Carver. Her interaction with the students gives each of them the opportunity to explore and celebrate their individual background and talents. The Archer family is fortunate to have such a beacon which warms us all a little more each day. The sky is the limit for such a talented artist and educator!"

We wish you a relaxing and rejuvenating Spring Break Week!

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Amy, Tina, and Pamela

Contact Information

http://www.gcsnc.com/HR/lateral/index.htm

Amy Holcombe, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Talent Development
(336) 335-3294 x5016
holcoma@gcsnc.com

Tina Johnson, M.A.
Specialist, Lateral Entry
(336) 378.8823 x 1
johnsot2@gcsnc.com

Pamela Herndon, M.Ed.
Specialist, Lateral Entry
(336) 378.8823 x 2
herndop@gcsnc.com

Lateral Entry Resource and Advising Center
Office of Lateral Entry Specialists
712 N. Eugene Street
Warehouse