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Dear Friends of the College of Education,

By the time you read this, we will be well underway with the 2017-2018 school year and as always, the preparation of qualified, competent and compassionate educators is high on our priority list. The faculty and staff in the College and here at Lewis are focused and energized to take on the important work of preparing the next generation of teachers and administrators. Now more than ever, we must rely on the work of education to promote a robust civil discourse and prepare the nation’s children for active participation in a democratic society, as well as for the academic, critical thinking and higher order learning skills that will be needed in the 21st century.

We must move away from determining the quality of education based on single, standardized tests. The Information Age is over as we can now access facts on our cell phones, tablets, computers and even our watches. Now is the time for educational opportunities that develop the creative processes of innovation and invention. This type of creative design thinking is essential for solving the world’s problems both big and small. George Kembel, founder of the design school at Stanford University, cites the need to transform how we educate children, to allow for design thinking across all the disciplines, not just the arts. Technology in the classroom, maker labs and a focus and emphasis on the STEM fields reinforces our need to think differently about standards application, engaged learning and finding new and creative ways for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. These methodologies add to the next generation’s contributions to the global world, and prove that children are learning through the use of problem- and project-based work that grapples with real world problems.

The need to differently educate teachers and children surfaces at a point in history that faces significant teacher shortages both here in Illinois and across the nation, with particular need for Math and Science teachers, Special Education teachers, English as a New Language teachers and Early Childhood teachers. Unfortunately, to many young people a career as an educator is not appealing. The pay can be low, the hours long and yes, it does include the need to work in the summer. The appreciation and respect for the profession has been problematic for more than a decade. We know that the shortages are caused by recession driven lay-offs, a recovering economy with low unemployment, many other career choices and the fact that almost 50% of teachers leave the field before their 5-year anniversary. But educators are essential and we in the College dispute the automation of the profession because teaching requires compassion, empathy, encouragement and love – that only one human being can give another.

So whether you are a seasoned veteran or aspiring to a career in education, the estimable importance of education and the innumerable rewards of the profession create a dynamic vocation that impacts the hearts of all students. It is up to all of us to change the negative discourse about our profession and to promote the work of the hundreds of thousands of noble, hardworking and skilled professionals who have devoted their lives to our nation’s children.

My most sincere best wishes for a wonderful school year!

Dr. Pamela Jessee
Dean of the College of Education
WOMEN’S MARCH: JANUARY 21, 2017

On January 21, people across the world came together at the 2017 Women’s March to rally for rights for women and all marginalized people. At least 500,000 marchers attended the main march in Washington, D.C., with over 500 sister marches across the world increasing total participation to approximately five million marchers. Several College of Education faculty members attended the march in Washington and also the march in Chicago, exemplifying the College of Education’s emphasis on being social justice advocates.

The march in Washington was attended by Dr. Elizabeth Sturm who traveled on a chartered bus from Tinley Park with 65 other marchers, a large majority of whom were educators. They travelled overnight and spent all day Saturday engaged in the rally and march. According to Dr. Sturm, “We started off as strangers, but strangers who shared a passion for social justice. By the time we returned home after the march, connections were made that have kept us working towards increased equity and human rights for all. As we travelled and marched, I heard personal stories of how policies and legislation truly impact people who hold less status in our society. It was incredible to see so many diverse people coming together to fight for human rights, yet promoting such love and acceptance of all.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Jung Kim, Dr. Christy Roberts, and Meghan and Rob Culp participated in the march in Chicago. Dr. Roberts explained, “Being in downtown Chicago for the Women’s March was exciting, both socially and personally. It was inspiring to see such a cross section of Americans representing our landscape of diversity. This diversity included gender, religion, sexual orientation, race and ability levels that came together to express their care and concern of all people. It’s as if everyone realized at the same moment that the time for complacency and silence is gone and we must stand together and make sure everyone’s voice is heard.”
AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK: NOVEMBER 13-16, 2017

ED MALONEY: MJS ASSOCIATES
EDUCATIONAL LOBBYIST
NOV. 13, 5:00-6:00, DL 250

Ed Maloney served in the Illinois State Senate for 10 years and chaired the Higher Education Committee. He took the lead to pass major education legislation, including performance-based funding, college and career readiness, creation of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success, and college access and affordability. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Lewis University and a master’s from Chicago State University. In his presentation, he will talk about the state of education in Illinois and moving forward with needed legislation.

EDUCATION, INC.
VIDEO PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION
NOV. 14, 3:00-5:00, AS 158

For free-market reformers, private investors and large education corporations, this controversy spells opportunity in turning public schools over to private interests. Education, Inc. examines the free-market and for-profit interests that have been quietly and systematically privatizing America’s public education system under the banner of “school choice.” Education, Inc. is told through the eyes of parent and filmmaker Brian Malone, as he travels cross-country in search of the answers and sources behind the privatizing of American public education, and what it means for his kids. With striking footage from school protests, raucous school board meetings and interviews with some of the most well-known educators in the country, Malone zooms out to paint a clear picture of profit and politics that’s sweeping across the nation, right under our noses.

CHRIS HUEG
INTERACTIVE PRAYER JOURNAL
NOV. 14, 5:00-6:00, DL 250

Christopher Hueg is a Lewis alum who serves as a teacher and a peer minister in the Joliet Diocese. He will present on the use of Interactive Prayer Journals with elementary and middle school students.

PRECIOUS KNOWLEDGE
VIDEO PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION
NOV. 15, 3:00-4:45, DL 250

Precious Knowledge is a 2011 educational and political documentary centered on the banning of the Mexican-American Studies Program in the Tucson Unified School District of Arizona. It was directed by Ari Palos and produced by Eren Isabel McGinnis, both founders of Dos Vatos Productions. The film follows the lives of four students and several teachers in the Mexican-American Studies Program at Tucson High School. It follows the progression of local legislation proposed by the Arizona Department of Education Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Horne, in order to ban the Mexican-American Studies Program.

MICHAEL DIETER
SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CURRICULUM
NOV. 16, 5:00-6:00, DL 250

Lewis alum, current Ed. D. student and teacher at the De La Salle Institute in Chicago, Michael Dieter, will share his thoughts on the infusion of social justice concepts into the curriculum. Michael will share his experiences working in a Lasallian high school and teaching students to be critical advocates for controversial and political topics. If you like the first year reader, Do It Anyway, you will love this presentation.
The Institute for the Advancement of Catholic and Lasallian Education and the College of Education held the 2nd Annual Colloquium on Becoming Lasallian on February 18, 2017, at the St. Charles Borromeo Center. The theme of this year’s Colloquium was “Education as a Work of Justice.” Nearly 70 students, faculty and Lasallian partners participated in this highly successful Colloquium. Keynote speaker for the event was Brother Phil Johnson, FSC. Brother Phil provided the participants with an inspiring overview of the Lasallian community and the world-wide network of Lasallian Brothers who serve over one million students in 77 countries.

Breakout sessions were led by Ms. Maryann O’Neill, principal, and Mr. Michael Blanchette, campus minister, of Montini High School in Lombard (“Living the Social Gospel as a Way of Life”); Brother Armand Alcazar, FSC, professor of Theology at Lewis University (“A Theology of Justice and the Power of One”); Dr. Ron Hoover, principal, and Mr. Dave Hotek, campus minister, St. Joseph’s High School in Westchester (“Living Social Justice at St. Joseph High School”); Mr. Demetrius Davis, director of Family-Community Partnerships at Catalyst Maria Charter School in Chicago (“Education as Liberation”); Ms. Molly Nocera, volunteer serving as a Young Lasallian coordinator (“Young Lasallians and Lasallian Volunteers: Responding to a Calling”); and Brother Mark Snodgrass, FSC, assistant principal/6th grade teacher, and Alison Orbin, assistant principal/7th grade teacher and director, San Miguel School in Chicago (“Quality Education is Rooted in Compassionate Community”).

Comments and reflections from those attending indicated that the 2nd Annual Colloquium on Becoming Lasallian was successful in inspiring a deeper commitment to the Lasallian charism and to social justice in our classrooms. One participant said, “I learned that justice leads to a greater participation which leads to transformation.” Another shared, “I learned ways to be a liberated educator and how to incorporate that into the classroom.” And a teaching candidate related, “I learned that being a Lasallian at its core means to care about others and to help the less fortunate. I learned the importance of being a social justice advocate both in and out of the classroom and creating a sense of belonging and love for each and every child.”

The Institute for the Advancement of Catholic and Lasallian Education focuses on leadership development, teacher preparation, professional development, outreach and consulting, grants and research and Lasallian formation. For further information, please contact Larry Wiers, director of the Institute for the Advancement of Catholic and Lasallian Education, at wiersla@lewisu.edu or (815)-836-5790.
Institute for the Advancement of Catholic and Lasallian Education - Catholic Educators Program

The College of Education is happy to announce the new Catholic Educators Program. Led by College of Education faculty Dr. Jennifer Buss and Dr. Erica Kwiatkowski-Egizio, the program is intended to enhance preparation for P-12 teachers to work in Catholic schools through immersion experiences, selected field and clinical placements and spirituality retreats. Lewis alumni who are working in Catholic schools were invited to launch this program with a panel discussion on what makes a great Catholic educator.

(L to R): Michael Dieter ’08, ’15 of De La Salle Institute, Chicago; Miguel Gonzalez ’16 of St. Joseph School, Lockport; Chris Hueg ’11, ’15 of St. Raymond’s School, Joliet; Chris Tiritilli ’13, principal of St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic School, Downers Grove; and Bridget Kay ’15 of St. George’s School, Tinley Park. Back Row: Dr. Erica Kwiatkowski-Egizio and Dr. Jennifer Buss, co-sponsors of the Catholic Educators Program.
The College of Education hosted 239 participants in 17 different summer seminars offered in June 2017. Topics ranged from literacy to technology to standards-based grading and socio-political issues in the classroom.

The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship provided support for Dr. Ray Klump (Math), Dr. Jerry Kavouras (Biology), Joseph Lambert (Physics), Caitlin Moeller (Chemistry/Biology) and Emily Pearson (Math) to attend a three-day institute at the Kennedy Space Center in Titusville, Fla.

SUMMER SEMINARS 2017

Dr. Erica Davila presents to summer seminar participants on Meeting the Needs of our Emerging Mathematicians.

The College of Education hosted 239 participants in 17 different summer seminars offered in June 2017. Topics ranged from literacy to technology to standards-based grading and socio-political issues in the classroom.

KIDZFEST

Lewis University is the main sponsor for Kidzfest, a free family festival in downtown Joliet that offers an opportunity for children to play, explore, imagine and create. The College of Education sponsors many fun and engaging activities for children as can be seen in this photo with the Farm Friendly Petting Zoo. Other College of Education activities included a bubble station and making paper airplanes.
While the January day was cold outside, the conversation was warm, thoughtful and nurturing inside on the second floor of De La Salle Hall. That is where 30-plus mentor teachers joined 49 student teacher candidates along with their university coaches for the semi-annual Mentor Forum. The Mentor Forum is a first opportunity for mentors to meet with their newly assigned student teacher candidates and engage in initial conversations about their practice and how they envision supporting them in this culminating experience. The dean, Dr. Pam Jessee, and Early Childhood Special Education Program Director, Dr. Rebecca Pruitt welcomed the group. Other Lewis faculty members including Dick Clish (recently retired), Ann O’Brien, Dr. Christy Roberts, and Dr. Lauren Rentfro, facilitated several activities through which participants shared personal preferences, reviewed strengths and challenges in their roles and explored values critical to teaching and learning.

Despite this particular Saturday being the last day of winter break for many mentors, one had this to say when she introduced her student teacher candidate to colleagues that first week back:

“This is my first student teacher from Lewis University. I was impressed by Lewis’ Mentor Forum. The entire staff and program is clearly grounded in strong values [referring to the COE unit standards]. I think all teaching programs should be grounded in those values! While I thought it was going to be a terrible way to spend my last Saturday of winter break, it was really great!”

The Forum was held again in May to introduce fall student teacher candidates and their mentors. This activity is a hallmark of the College of Education student teaching program.

Dr. Rebecca Pruitt visits with mentor teachers in the Early Childhood Special Education Program.

Rosemary Blessman, university supervisor, listens intently to presentations on clinical supervision for growth, expectations for student teachers and faculty, and working together for P-12 student success.
STRONGER THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS
INTERNATIONAL LASALLIAN PARTNERS

Education is a powerful force that has the potential to transform lives. It provides individuals with the knowledge and power to make changes in their community and personal lives to improve the society in which they live and work. Drs. Dorene Huvaere and Chris Palmi worked collaboratively to see how other Lasallian universities prepare their teacher candidates to work with marginalized populations, particularly those from lower socio-economic strata.

The research includes an examination of the current literature related to the needs, abilities and attitudes toward learning for marginalized 6-12 grade students, and how a teacher candidate can develop curriculum that is culturally relevant, engaging and supportive of critical thinking.

Dr. Palmi began his investigation by forming a partnership with Universidad de La Salle Oaxaca, Mexico, while Dr. Huvaere formed relationships with three Lasallian universities in the Philippines. All four international Lasallian institutions and Lewis’ College of Education provided background information related to the size and scope of their teacher education population and the teacher candidates’ general exposure to theories of teaching students from lower economic stratum.

Working with Universidad de La Salle Oaxaca, Mexico, during the fall term, Dr. Palmi surveyed teacher candidates to determine their level of interest in working with students who they perceive as marginalized by their cultural contexts. He investigated the current programs of study and materials used to work with teacher candidates and their students. Then, in conjunction with faculty at the university, he selected and administered interventions to help teacher candidates to become more comfortable and knowledgeable working with this population of students.

Dr. Huvaere gathered institutional information from De La Salle University (DLSU) Manila, DLSU Dasmariñas, and DLSU Araneta. She worked with graduate teacher candidates at each of the institutions as they examined contemporary theories about learning and supporting students from impoverished backgrounds.

P-12 PARTNERS

The College of Education is increasing its partnership with local transition programs. Transition programs serve those individuals with disabilities who are moving from the school to the adult environment including work, social and recreational training. The College now boasts of two very successful partnerships with the Lincoln-Way District LIFE Transition program and the Valley View Transition program, known as STEP. College of Education Special Education majors enrolled in “Content Area Reading Strategies for Adolescent Learners” and “Methods of Teaching in Middle and Secondary Content Areas” courses will be working with the transition students from these two programs. Lewis teacher candidates are partnered with the transition students to deliver instruction in reading and work on literacy skills in the content areas like social studies, science and mathematics.

At the end of the eight week session, a progress report is shared with the transition student and goals are developed for future work. While teacher candidates are teaching these weekly lessons, they are being evaluated by the instructor for the course and the community teacher partners. This gives teacher candidates experience and critique before student teaching or heading into their own classroom to perfect their skills. “Through these appropriate peer relationships, the transition students are given the opportunity to have additional reading strategy assistance,” commented Jan Smith, a transition specialist with the Lincoln-Way District LIFE Transition program. Benefits for the Lewis teacher candidates include additional opportunities to enhance their skills in the development and delivery of instruction, assessment of student growth and reporting progress.

Both Lincoln-Way and Valley View also serve as sites for field experience for College of Education candidates across all teacher licensure programs. They provide valuable experiences which insure that teacher candidates are well prepared to enter the teaching profession.
LEWIS CANDIDATES AND FACULTY PROVIDE LITERACY SUPPORT FOR ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE STUDENTS

Writing in shaving cream, reading to others, crafts and words games enticed 52 St. Andrew the Apostle students into picking up books this summer. The literacy-based activities were part of the free summer reading program for St. Andrew the Apostle School in Romeoville. Lewis University students, faculty and volunteers from the College of Education’s Reading and Literacy Program created the four-week program held June 6-29.

The Lewis University College of Education provided each child with a book that he/she could bring home and keep to foster reading at home. Lewis University faculty and students collected funds and books that were donated to build the St. Andrew the Apostle School library. The Will County Reading Council (WCRC) also donated money for the library books to promote literacy.

The program was structured and developed by Lewis University professors Dr. Joyce Hayward and Dr. Deborah Augsburger, assisted by Paula DiDomenico of Leyden High School in Franklin Park. Associate professors Dr. Jennifer Buss and Dr. Mary Fisher volunteered to work with the primary students. Graduate students from the Reading and Literacy Program including Tricia Brennan of Clarendon Hills, Brandon Daun of Plainfield, Tasha Knapczyk of Plainfield and Bri Savic of Lemont were the core teachers for the group. They are currently licensed teachers completing their master’s degrees to be Reading Specialists.

Additional student support came from Bonita Grove of Westmont, an Elementary Education graduate student; Tori Ruffatto of Coal City, an undergraduate student majoring in Elementary Education; and Jess Whitney of Plainfield, Heather Jachimowski of Joliet, and Jackie Lehnertz of Bolingbrook, all graduate students in the English as a Second Language program.

STURM’S SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS

Dr. Liz Sturm’s Methods and Content of Teaching Social Studies students spent March 15 and 17 at the Benavides Kindergarten Center in Aurora teaching about transportation.

FUTURE TEACHERS VISIT LEWIS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Nancy Kennedy invited two Plainfield High School students to her Child and Adolescent Literature class. They were excited to come and enjoyed the class and the student presentations so much that they stayed for the whole class. We are looking forward to Nyomi Garcia and Aiko Sinio joining the College of Education. Current student, Gabby Nicholson, leads the genre presentation activity in the photo below.
The College of Education and the History Center at Lewis University have partnered with the Give Something Back Foundation to offer engaging activities to share the story of Lincoln Landing in Lockport, the history and significance of the I & M Canal and to tell the story of Abraham Lincoln and his connection to the site.

College of Education graduate students, Troy Costabile and Kole Torres served as interns for the summer. The two facilitated the activities and promoted the site through social media. You can follow Lincoln’s Landing on Facebook.

Kole and Troy stop for a quick photo with these young historians!
Byung Seo-Pero, Ph.D. an alumna of Lewis University was awarded the 2017 Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching at Chicago State University. This honor was awarded after a rigorous review of Dr. Seo-Pero’s portfolio that highlighted her exceptional work in teaching, service and scholarship by a committee of her fellow faculty with a recommendation to upper administration. Of the 10 finalists, seven awards were given; two in teaching and five in research. While at Lewis in the early 1990s, Dr. Seo-Pero earned a secondary education license in English/Language Arts and continued on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration. Through the years, Dr. Seo-Pero has continued to support Lewis University and the College of Education. She recounts reaching out to Lewis University after finding the listing in the phonebook and the kindness and support extended to her from Dr. James Moses and the faculty.
For 37 years, William “Buck” Orenic contributed to the Troy School District 30-C success story as a building principal, director of elementary instruction, assistant superintendent for education and as a two-term member of the Troy School District 30-C Board of Education. In each of these capacities, Mr. Orenic was a fervent advocate for students and their families and an ardent supporter of the Troy staff and administration. He was the consummate educational leader and his impact on the Troy School District was significant and enduring. The Troy Intermediate School bears his name.

Those who were privileged to know Mr. Orenic and honored to work side-by-side with him, were inspired by his aspirations to reach every child, enlightened by his wisdom and vast knowledge about leading, teaching and learning, motivated to go beyond the job description to make a difference for kids, and empowered by him to become more than what they thought was possible. But his real passion was teaching and his true love, outside of his family, were the school children. He would often remind his team to keep their eyes and hearts on the real reason for our work – our students.

Now, through the William B. Orenic Endowed Scholarship for Elementary Education, Mr. Orenic’s legacy will live on in our teaching candidates here at Mr. Orenic’s alma mater, Lewis University. In each of these capacities, Mr. Orenic was a fervent advocate for students and their families and an ardent supporter of the Troy staff and administration. He was the consummate educational leader and his impact on the Troy School District was significant and enduring. The Troy Intermediate School bears his name.

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ASSOCIATION OF TEACHER EDUCATORS

CLINICAL FELLOWS SYMPOSIUM

Dr. Erica Kwiatkowski-Egizio and Dr. Lauren Rentfro, College of Education faculty members, attended the ATE Clinical Fellows Symposium which was held in Orlando, Florida, February 10-12, 2017. This program provides the opportunity for researchers and educators across the nation interested in clinically rich teacher education to discuss local work and build national momentum to place clinical experiences at the center of teacher education.

JOLIET GREAT TEACHERS

Great Teacher Recipient Dawn Bates ‘14 (English as a Second Language Endorsement from Lewis) is currently a first grade teacher at Woodland Elementary School. Also honored from Lewis University were Allison Acevedo ‘15 (School Counseling), Diana Coveny ‘16 (ELL Endorsement and master’s in Curriculum and Instruction), Chris Majack ‘09 (Elementary Education), and Amanda Ringfelt ‘16 (School Counseling).

BEST BUDDIES: BUDDY BALL

Everyone had a great time at the Buddy Ball which was held at the Orland Chateau on April 2, 2017! This event is sponsored by the Best Buddies group at Lewis University. The people in the photo above are (L to R): Dr. Laura Sloan, special education professor emeritus; Sara Mazan; Kelsey Filippone; Megan MacDougall; Jim Fox and Therese Fox who are all Best Buddies participants or volunteers and Lewis University College of Education alumni.

Great Teacher Recipient Dawn Bates is pictured with Mike Paone, vice president of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce; Mary Jaworski, president of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce; and Larry Johnson, chairman of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.
The College of Education is proud to announce that Jennifer McGowan ’16 was recognized as an Outstanding Beginning Teacher by the Illinois Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2017. Jennifer is one of those rare teacher candidates who soaks up all the content and the pedagogy, and really gets it about the power of education and the social issues associated with it. She is magic in the classroom.

As an undergraduate student, Jennifer was extremely active in campus life. She served as an ambassador for the College of Education doing presentations to parents and prospective Lewis students who were mesmerized with her poise, grace and warmth. Her performance in the classroom, even in those early field experiences, was exemplary – sometimes outperforming the competence of her mentoring teachers in her ability to connect with students, make the content meaningful and relevant, assess her own pedagogy and reteach with a new strategy, and make every high school kid feel like she was teaching just for them.

Today, Jennifer is in her second year teaching psychology and economics at Joliet Central High School and changing the world one student at a time.

Congratulations to Kristin Johnson ’16 who will be the director of curriculum and assessment in Troy Community School District 30-C! Kristin received a master’s degree in Educational Leadership and another master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction/English as a Second Language from Lewis University. So proud of our alumni!

Jennifer with Margo McDermed, State Representative from the 37th District.

Dr. Pam Jessee, dean (front); Dr. Joyce Hayward, division chair; Jennifer McGowan; Brad Foster and Mr. Steven Locke, Joliet Central administrator.

Kristin Johnson, director of curriculum and assessment
In collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development, a special event to celebrate the publication of *Voices from the Field: Collaborative Innovations in Early Childhood Educator Preparation* was held at Roosevelt University Chicago on January 26, 2017.

This edited book is authored by Early Childhood Education faculty from both the 2-year and 4-year sectors. It provides clear, tangible examples of how colleges and universities across Illinois worked together to design pathways for early childhood educators to earn the state’s industry-recognized Gateways credentials while taking college coursework leading to degrees. Each chapter has a unique focus and together, their “voices” provide significant insight into these innovative partnerships.

Dr. Rebecca Pruitt, assistant professor and director of the Early Childhood Special Education program, was lead author on a chapter for this publication. The chapter outlines the collaborative work between Pruitt and faculty colleagues from three area community colleges. The project was funded by the Early Childhood Educator Preparation Program Innovation Grant. The State of Illinois was awarded a total of $52.4 million in federal funds through the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge. These funds are currently being used to strengthen the training and support of early learning personnel, create and implement the ExceleRate Illinois Quality Rating and Improvement System, and align all early care and education programs with high-quality early learning and development standards. The Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois State Board of Education, and The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning, and the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development, in conjunction with the Illinois Early Learning Council’s subcommittee on Higher Education Learning and Professional Development, collaborated to offer the grant.

As recipients of this competitive grant, Pruitt and colleagues Melissa Szymczak from Joliet Junior College, Carla Diez from Waubonsee Community College and Kari Livesey from Kankakee Community College have engaged in a fully collaborative effort over the course of nearly two years to date. The viability of a meaningful partnership among these institutions became
clear early on, not only because of geographical proximity, but because the strengths of each program provided a solid foundation on which to build a productive partnership. Each of the community colleges has a long history of preparing high quality early childhood professionals, and their diverse graduates are a positive addition to the learning community at Lewis. Through a collaborative process that honored the expertise of each faculty member equally, programs of study were reviewed and revised to create a clear and defined pathway between each community college program and the Lewis program. The result of this work was the creation of three fully aligned degree completion plans (AAS to BA) that are in process toward becoming articulation agreements. New, innovative practices are also currently in development to promote a more seamless pathway for students. Most importantly, the strengthened and ongoing partnerships among these institutional faculty members will facilitate an improved ability to serve the educational needs of all students.

Members of the Early Childhood Educator Preparation Program Innovation Grant at the celebration held at Roosevelt University, January 2017.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Abby Moll, Early Childhood Special Education major is one of the first to visit the College of Education Little Free Library located on the 2nd Floor of DeLaSalle Hall. The Give a Book/Take a Book format is perfect for aspiring teacher candidates to build their professional library. A huge thank you to Dr. Nancy Kennedy’s son who built and installed the Free Library and donated it to the College of Education. Little Free Libraries are springing up all over the country and have an official website. Check them out at littlefreelibrary.org. Happy Reading, everyone!
RULES FOR THE ROAD...AHEAD

Larry Wiers, director of the Institute for the Advancement of Catholic and Lasallian Education, recently visited St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic School in Downers Grove and spoke to their eighth graders. His presentation was titled “Rules for the Road...Ahead.” Mr. Wiers shared the stories of seven Americans (some past and some present; some famous and some not-so-famous) whose lives give us a roadmap to follow going forward. He emphasized these seven qualities for navigating your life.

Chris Tiritilli, a 2013 graduate of Lewis University’s faith-based principal preparation program, is the Principal of St. Mary of Gostyn Catholic School.

**PERSEVERE!** There will always be setbacks in your life. There is a fine line between success and failure. You are usually on the line! Sometimes success starts out first as failure. As the proverb tells us, if you get knocked down 7 times, get up 8 times.

**FAIL FORWARD!** Learn from your setbacks! We are all in the state of recovering from some kind of setback. She/He who recovers the fastest is usually the most successful! Remember, failure is temporary, a momentary event, an isolated incident. Failure is not a life sentence; it is not fatal. Nor is success final. Learn from your setbacks and grow from them.

**BE A GOOD TEAMMATE!** Nothing of significance in our world has ever been accomplished by just one person. Today’s workplace is one of collaboration and cooperation!

**FOLLOW YOUR PASSION!** Only 29% of the work force is passionate about what they do. In other words, 2 out of every 3 workers are not psychologically or emotionally engaged in their work. Do what you love so you can love what you do! Follow your passion!

**SERVE OTHERS!** Devote yourself to something bigger than you! As Maya Angelou admonishes us, “You cannot go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You have to be able to throw something back!” There is a paradox in giving. You can never help another person without helping yourself. Serving others can help you find joy, happiness and purpose in your own life.

**LIVE A LIFE OF GRATITUDE!** Gratitude is the character strength that is most predictive of well-being. Being thankful can be good for your health. People who write letters of gratitude experience greater happiness and more satisfaction with their lives (2011 Kent State study). Say, “thank you” to those who sit on your own personal “Board of Directors.”

**STRIVE FOR GREATNESS!** Mother Teresa reminded us that “You and I have been created for greater things. We have not been created to just pass through this life without aim.” And, she gave us the blueprint for what it means to live a life of greatness. “Never think that a small action done to your neighbor is not worth much. It is not how much we do that is pleasing to God, but how much love we put into the doing.”
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION BIDS
FAREWELL TO ROBERT DEROSE, CFO

For over three decades, Robert DeRose, Chief Financial Officer, was instrumental in the planning and financing of many of Lewis Universities projects including renovation of De La Salle Hall, home of the College of Education. On August 23, 2017 faculty and staff gathered to honor Rob and wish him well in his retirement and thank him for the beautiful facilities that they call home.

Ed.D. CANDIDATE TEACHES SOCIAL JUSTICE COURSE AT LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

Jessica Ruiz, a doctoral candidate in the Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership, was selected to present as a visiting scholar for the La Salle University International Summer 2016 Academy in Bogota, Columbia. Ms. Ruiz developed a course titled Social Justice: the Influence of a Lasallian Student. In this course, Columbian students explored Latina/o critical theory and its application to the Lasallian mission. Societal injustice was studied through the theorists Paolo Freire and Jaime Garzon. The curriculum studied environmental injustices and poverty with the opportunity for student research and presentations on societal issues in Bogota. Ms. Ruiz said, “My experience offered insight as to how to effectively empower the minds of students who are willing to engage in critical dialogue while co-constructing course readings and assignments through application of experiential knowledge.”
FACULTY PROVIDE SERVICE TO LASALLIAN HIGH SCHOOL IN WESTCHESTER

The first day back from winter break at St. Joseph’s High School in Westchester, Ill., was a day of professional development for the teachers. Dr. Erica Davila, from Lewis’ Ed.D. program, and Dr. Jung Kim, from Reading and Literacy, provided a full day presentation on culturally relevant teaching to the 25+ staff and faculty members present. They began the day with a short video of a TED talk, “The Danger of a Single Story,” by Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story). The short video set the tone for the introductory discussions about unpacking identity and power. The group delved into understanding various aspects of identity, including the ways in which we can be both marginalized and/or privileged in different contexts. This helped everyone better understand the importance of inclusive education and how the ways in which we act, speak and interact with others can have a profound impact on whether others feel “a part of” or “apart.”

Davila and Kim presented the faculty and staff with various models of culturally relevant teaching and specific examples of lesson plans and themes the teachers can utilize in their respective classrooms. Several teachers shared the work that they are already doing to be more culturally responsive and others were curious to learn more about this approach. The presenters provided some background information on three different models of culturally inclusive teaching:

1. Gloria Ladson-Billing’s Culturally Relevant Teaching
2. James Banks’ Models of Multicultural Teaching
3. Allan Luke and Peter Freebody’s Four Resources Model

After lunch, the faculty and staff were placed in groups according to their subject matter to apply the ideas presented in the morning. Kim remarked, “It was powerful seeing the teachers apply these concepts in their respective disciplines. For some of the teachers, it was more of a challenge; for example, the math faculty struggled with balancing rigorous mathematics teaching objectives and keeping their pedagogy culturally relevant. Other departments, such as English, have already begun this challenging work and took this opportunity to share ideas and brainstorm what limitations they had encountered in doing this work.” After the departments met, each small group shared specific concrete goals in moving forward with the work of culturally inclusive teaching, including sharing some of their challenges. One specific goal of the English department was to review the list of the novels they teach and consider how the novels can support their goal to be more culturally inclusive. Several groups shared that they would appreciate more of this type of professional development and others shared the need for more resources to be able to apply these ideas. Lewis University will be going back to St. Joseph’s later this spring to continue this very important work.
**DECEMBER 2016 PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS**

(L to R) Dr. Pam Jessee, Dean; Dr. Stephany Schlachter, Provost; Diane Meyer, Secondary Education; Elisabeth Price, Graduate Elementary Education; Kasey Steimaszek, Undergraduate Combined Special Education/Elementary Education; Michael Palmasani, Undergraduate Elementary Education; Anna Marek, Undergraduate Secondary Education; Kurt Becker, Undergraduate Secondary Education; Brett Foley, Undergraduate Special Education; and Dr. David Livingston, Lewis University President.

**MAY 2017 PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS**

(L to R) Dr. Stephany Schlachter, Provost; Dr. Pamela Jessee, Dean; Hayley Rife, Undergraduate Secondary Education; Kevin Dorenkamper, Graduate Secondary Education; Amy Gilbert, Undergraduate Elementary Education; Bethany Erickson, Undergraduate Combined Special Education/Elementary Education; Kris Bruno, Graduate Elementary Education; and Dr. David Livingston, Lewis University President. Not pictured: Megan Fox, Undergraduate Early Childhood Special Education.
EMPLOYMENT RATE

92% Of the 2016-2017 Graduates are Working as Teachers in Their Fields

88% Undergraduate Students

100% Graduate Students

LICENSURE TEST PASS RATES

97% Passed the edTPA on the First Attempt

100% Passed the Second Attempt

SCHOOLS WHERE OUR GRADUATES WERE HIRED:

Naperville District 203
Naperville District 204
LaGrange School District 102
Orland School District 135
Valley View School District 365
Plainfield Community Consolidated District
Woodridge District 68
St. Joseph School, Lockport
Joliet School District 86
Chicago Public Schools
Manheim Early Childhood Center