NC State Improvement Project Spring Network Conference: Come Celebrate 20 Years with Us!

Mark your calendars for the NC SIP Spring Network Conference (SNC) where together we will celebrate 20 years of our grant work! The SNC promises to be a special celebration to include memories as well as the vision for moving ahead. Join us on March 24-26, 2020. This year’s conference theme is “Look Forward, Reflect Back: Celebrating our Past and Building a Better Future”. We have scheduled four keynote speakers. On Tuesday, March 24, literacy will be the focus with Dr. Louisa Moats as our featured speaker. She will be presenting on Structured Literacy and will stay through the afternoon to provide two breakout sessions addressing text comprehension. On Wednesday, March 25 the focus will be on leadership. Two prominent keynote speakers will join us. In the morning, Dr. Marilyn Friend will discuss specially designed instruction in a co-teaching classroom. Dr. Peter DeWitt will be with us in the afternoon to speak about teacher efficacy. Thursday, March 26 our speaker for math day will be Dr. Jo Boaler, a Stanford researcher whose work is prominent in the Foundations of Math course. She will be addressing many of the key concepts and her latest research to share.

We want to celebrate the many accomplishments the NC SIP grant has helped support over the last 20 years. The strong NC SIP network has been the reason for the success of this project and we hope you will join us in the celebration of this 20 year milestone. Registration information has been sent and posted on the www.ncsip.org website.
The NC SIP Project Director’s Exceptional Service Award will be presented at the 2020 Spring Network Conference in March. We sincerely appreciate the many submissions we received from you for this award and recognize the talented influencers of this work represented across the state. Please join us at the conference to honor the recipient of the 2020 Award. The award nomination document is made available on the www.ncsip.org website year-round. We look forward to receiving the nominations each year as this award helps to elevate the leadership present in the NC SIP work!

**NCSU Students Complete First RRtCP Course**

Jody Cleven, Adjunct Instructor, North Carolina State University

I have been teaching the Seminar in Special Education Literacy (ECI 681) for over fifteen years. Although I have continually modified and updated the course throughout this time, I have never made a complete overhaul as I did this semester. During the fall 2019 semester, I delivered the Reading Research to Classroom Practice (RRtCP) content in its entirety to my group of seventeen graduate students. I expected the students to respond positively. What I didn’t expect was the extent of their enthusiasm. Students continually told me how much value they were receiving from the instruction and how the content was transforming their thinking about reading instruction. When I told them that they were required to be in class each evening in order to earn their RRtCP certification, they became instantly committed. In all my years of teaching, I have never had a more stellar attendance record than this past semester. Students were on time, engaged, and motivated each evening of class. They enjoyed the thorough presentation of the “big-five” of reading instruction, as well as the foundational topics included in RRtCP.

Overwhelming, most agreed that their new knowledge around instruction on phonemic awareness, decoding, syllable patterns, vocabulary, and comprehension would provide them with the necessary tools to successfully teach struggling readers. When asked to reflect on the events of the semester, several students stated that they wished they’d had this instruction earlier and that they would highly recommend the class to all NCSU students preparing to teach struggling readers. Many also stated that they never worked harder! I agree. Personally, I was never more exhausted after teaching a semester-long class, but I was also never more exhilarated. I look forward to perfecting the delivery of this content and continuing to make a tremendous impact on the individuals enrolled in the MAT program, and ultimately, the students they teach.

**UNC-G SES Associate Professor Marcia Rock Receives Council for Exceptional Children Teacher Education Division (CEC TED) Distinguished Service Award**

Congratulations to Dr. Marcia Rock, Associate Professor in the Department of Specialized Education Services (SES), for receiving the Teacher Education Division (TED) Distinguished Service award! See the full article by clicking on this link.
Congratulations to the 2019 ECAC Family Engagement Video Contest Winners!

Check out the videos on the ECAC website!

Title I School
1st Place - Alderman Elementary School, Wilmington
Title: Family Involvement at Alderman Elementary

Non-Title I School
1st Place - Oak Grove Elementary, Raleigh
Title: Otter Community Connection

Honorable Mention
Wilburn Elementary, Raleigh
Title: Family Matters

Each first place winner received a $500.00 Visa gift card that was used by the school to promote family engagement.

Welcome Our New Regional Coaches

The Program Improvement and Professional Development (PIPD) Section would like to welcome and congratulate our new Regional Coaches:

1 - Northeast Region –
   Literacy - Suzanne Brantley
   Mathematics – Doris Fletcher

4 - Sandhills –
   Literacy – Kimberly Hash

5 - Piedmont Triad –
   Literacy – Melissa Tatum

7 - Northwest Region –
   Mathematics - Melissa Miller, RayeLynn Weaver, Stephanie Nelson

8 - Western Region –
   Literacy – Michelle Alcorn

Please join us in welcoming each of them! We look forward to working with you!

Regional consultants and coaches (pictured below) had an opportunity to take a deeper dive into follow up coaching with the help of Dr. Marcie Rock!
Spotlighting our Demonstration Site

The Burke County Public Schools Strategic Plan developed in 2017, entitled “A Roadmap for Our Schools and Community 2022”, provides direction as we focus on six strategic goals while taking into consideration the needs and the demands of our current and future work force and the economy. The six goals include Committed Teachers, Technology for All, A Safe Environment, Engaged Community, and World-class Service which leads us to our primary goal of Successful Students.

Over the past few years as a demonstration site, Burke County Schools has been busy in our involvement with NC SIP. In September of each year, we host professional development for the following evidence-based reading and math programs that our EC teachers participate in: Number Worlds, VMath, Letterland, Read Well, Language!, and Language Live. The use of evidence-based practices is an expectation that we have for our EC teachers, particularly at our NC SIP feeder pattern schools. Our EC instructional coaches conduct fidelity observations for any EC teacher that has been trained in Reading Research to Classroom Practice and Foundations of Math as well as program training. Our coaches follow up with coaching in providing feedback on their observations.

Burke County has hosted the Reading Research to Classroom Practice and for Foundations of Math courses each year for any EC teachers that need the courses. It is our district’s expectation that all EC teachers complete these two courses. This school year, we are hosting two sessions for RRtCP and FOM for the first time. The district is setting up cohorts for regular education teachers to complete these courses as well. We have six certified instructors in our county who are qualified to teach Foundations of Math and three who teach Reading Research to Classroom practice. All Foundations of Math and Reading Research to Classroom Practice (RRtCP) instructors in our district went through the recertification process. Both of these courses have involved regular education teachers, EC teachers, and administrators from all school levels in the district as well as hosting individuals from other counties in the region. NCSIP coordinators are involved in learning and implementing the new observation tool for the evidence-based programs.

Another initiative in Burke County that we are working toward is effective and efficient co-teaching models throughout our schools. In November, we hosted Co Teaching: Calling All Administrators and Co Teaching: Going Beyond the Basics. This professional learning provided the participants with not only the different models of co-teaching, but multiple ways of effective communication between co-teachers when face-to-face planning is not conducive for both teachers. The session provided a lot of insight into the different levels of collaborative relationships ranging from coexisting to actual co-teaching. This was an “aha moment” for many. Taking the information shared from this professional learning, will help in the beginning process of the 3 Ring Binder Project that is being implemented in our district.
**Literacy Regional Coach**

Suzanne Brantley

1. What LEA do you serve? I serve Beaufort County Schools.
2. What is your role in your LEA? I currently serve as Instructional Support Lead for our district grades K-12. My job is to provide support to our curriculum department, principals, teachers, and others. I am a support for beginning teachers as well. Much of my time is spent around literacy and best practices for students! I am also the Summer Reading Camp coordinator for our district.
3. Are you a reading or math regional coach? I am a reading regional coach.
4. How many years have you been involved with NC SIP? I have been a part of our district NC SIP team for 3 years. I have been a Reading Research to Classroom Practice trainer for 4 years.
5. What made you want to become a regional coach? I wanted to become a regional coach so that I can share the research that is proven to be effective when teaching children to read. The information I learned through this course many years ago changed the way I taught in my classroom! I want to support the implementation of that knowledge to others so that our students in the Northeast Region are equipped with the necessary literacy skills to be productive in the 21st century! The knowledge that is provided through Reading Research to Classroom Practice about literacy is powerful and life-altering to educators as well as students.
6. Can you provide us with a fun fact about you, a tidbit, or a hobby that is interesting? One fun fact about me is that I love to water ski on the Pamlico River!

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**Math Regional Coach**

Elsa Iglesias

1. What LEA do you serve? I serve Buncombe County in the Western Region of North Carolina.
2. What is your role in your LEA? I am an EC Instructional Coach. I am also a Foundations of Math Instructor and Reading Research to Classroom Practice instructor for our LEA.
3. Are you a reading or math regional coach? I am the Math Regional coach for the Western Region.
4. How many years have you been involved with NC SIP? This is my second year.
5. What is something in your professional development in coaching that has influenced you and how has it impacted your interactions with the support you provide to the NC SIP grant work? I have attended coaching PDs and have learned the different types of coaching. Before I started coaching, I didn’t realize the different ways coaches interact with educators. This has impacted my interactions because I am better able to anticipate the needs of my teachers. Some need content coaching, some need strategies and others may need reflective coaching. It helps me establish relationships based on their needs and makes me a more effective coach.
6. What made you want to become a regional coach? I wanted to expand my professional knowledge by connecting with other educators across the state. I really enjoy developing relationships with other coaches, teachers and educators.
7. Can you provide us with a fun fact about you, a tidbit, or a hobby that is interesting? I was bitten by the acting and singing bug back in high school, and I continue to enjoy performing. It has been a while, but I have been in some local community theatre.

Have an idea for the NC SIP Connect? Share it on our survey and maybe you will see your suggestion in the next edition!

NC SIP Connect Survey
**UPDATES & REMINDERS**

Checkout Your Data!

**FoM Participants that scored =/>75%**

FoM Pre: 1%

FoM Post: 53%

**RRtCP Participants that scored =/>75%**

RRtCP Pre: 4%

RRtCP Post: 72%

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**NC SIP Coordinators**

*Information for Coordinators* - hyperlinked

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**NC SIP Spring Network Conference**
March 24-26, 2020

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**NC SIP PRC 082 Expenditure Report**
March 31, 2020

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**NC SIP Coordinators Meetings**
May 7, 2019

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**FoM and RRtCP Instructors**

A reminder that our **FoM and RRtCP instructor observation** will continue for another two year cycle. The cycle began on October 1, 2019 and will run through September 30, 2021. Once again you will be scheduling a time for a one-hour observation with either your Regional Consultant or your Regional Coach. The feedback that we have received from instructors and coaches has been very positive! We look forward to continuing to support these coaching and follow-up coaching sessions once again!

Have you seen the new **FoM and RRtCP Observation Tools**? They can be found on the NC SIP website under the Evidence-Based Practice tab. The new tools will provide an opportunity for you and your participants to observe the transfer of the FoM and RRtCP course content to impact instruction in the classroom. **FoM/RRtCP Observation Tools**
NC SIP Sites: It is Time to Update Your Infographics!

What story will you share this year? Will it be generated from your Knack Database? Each year the infographics get better and better! No doubt this year will be no different!

Begin to think of data you will add or update to display at **SNC 2020:**

*Look Forward, Reflect Back: Celebrating our Past and Building a Better Future!*