



Our Instructors Making the News

Foundations of Mathematics

Matt Hoskins

was named the Assistant Director for the Exceptional Children Division.

Reading Research to Classroom Practice

Elizabeth Gibbs

Received the KU-CRL National SIM Leadership Award.
(Cont. p. 4)

Lynne Loeser

LD/ADHD Statewide Consultant retired on August 31, 2019.

Christy Jolly

was named Teacher of the Year, Wilkes County Schools.

NCSU Leadership Seminars: Partnering for Success

In June 2019 the Exceptional Children Division Program Improvement and Professional Development (PIPD) Section staff, who lead the work of the North Carolina State Improvement Project (NC SIP), partnered with North Carolina State University to offer a two-day Leadership Seminar for 32 pre-service administrators at DPI. The goal was to provide the participants with an overview of the professional learning opportunities that are available through NC SIP for administrators and teachers across the state. The courses are high-quality professional development and well established in raising the quality of teachers' instructional practices and student achievement.



As a prerequisite to the course, participants were asked to complete two online modules. The modules provided an overview of **Foundations of Math** and **Reading Research to Classroom Practice**. On Day 1 of the face-to-face seminar, the Math and Literacy Consultants from PIPD provided participants with additional information about the benefits of the two foundational courses including examples of the evidence-based instructional strategies taught in each. On Day 2, the participants received an overview of the **All Leaders Understand, Support and Collaborate to Provide Evidence Based Practices** course and **Co-Teaching for Teachers and Administrators**. The PIPD Consultants stressed the importance of Implementation Science as it applies to successful implementation of initiatives within a building and district. Participants took part in discussions around the administrator's role in developing and sustaining evidence-based instructional practices. (Continued on page 2)



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction



Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

NCSU Leadership Seminars: Partnering for Success (continued)

Dr. Brenda Champion, Executive Director of the NCSU MSA Leadership Academies and Dr. Jamie Pearson, NCSU Assistant Professor for Special Education partnered with Dr. Paula Crawford, Section Chief for Program Improvement and Professional Development and section consultants Beth Gilchrist, and Ginger Starling to develop the two-day seminar.

When asked for feedback about the seminar, Dr. Champion responded, "The quality of the professional development provided by the DPI staff was outstanding! The facilitators were knowledgeable of their subject matter as well as organized and engaging. I believe that the participants now have a greater understanding of the importance of providing professional development to teachers that is firmly rooted in the research of evidence-based instructional practices for reading and math."

Dr. Champion also provided the feedback that she had received from the participants which supported her belief. Their comments included,

"There is power in evidence-based instruction by a skilled teacher delivered at the right intensity level when catching children up in reading. Lessons must be E.M.S. (explicit, multisensory, and systematic)."

"As a leader, this was critical to connect what our teachers are trying to achieve in the classroom, and ways that I can help or assess. "

"I will be able to bring these courses to the attention of my admin team so that other teachers in my school attend the trainings. I also have resources I can use to help struggling students in my school.

"I will definitely add the reading and math information to my toolkit to help teachers in the schools I will work in and encourage others to take the five-day workshops."

"I will continue to have the mindset that, "All of these children are OUR children!". Leadership must be consistent, explicit and systematic. I will have to be an influencer and Leadership Driver, using the following process: Tell staff why (explain the reason for the change- be transparent) Make change destination crystal clear (explain vision: where are we going) Recognize the bright spots (Always celebrate!) Script critical moves together (describe movements along the way) Shrink the change (small steps) Finally, continue to monitor and support the change. I also loved the 6 co-teaching strategies and routines. I plan to share this with my principal as she is planning to combine classrooms where teachers will have to co-teach initially due to lack

of space in the building, but it would also benefit all students. "

" As a future administrator, I plan to incorporate the use of co-teaching and inclusive instruction by providing time, support, and trainings for all staff. I plan to identify the importance of the two and how they both positively impact all students not just students in general education classes. "

"I really like the CRA model and how it makes relationships and connections between the different number components."

"This was a great training that challenged my thinking."

"I enjoyed the face to face learning with real examples. I am not a Math teacher so knowing what to look for in a classroom has been very useful."

"I enjoyed the group activities! I feel that this should be mandatory for all Beginning teachers during their first 3 years!"

"It was helpful for me to learn about the phonemic skills, including segmenting, isolation, and blending."

When asked her thoughts on continuing the NCSU Administrative Leadership and NC SIP partnership in the future, Dr. Jamie Pearson responded, "Following our first NCSU Administrative Leadership Seminar, I am extremely excited for our ongoing NC SIP partnership. This opportunity for partnership and professional development facilitates our translation from research to practice in the field of special education. I feel confident that our future seminars will build the capacity of administrators to support the needs of all learners. I look forward to building more participation within the College of Education at NC State as we continue to partner and implement NC SIP on our campus."

Our PIPD Team is inspired by these words and our hope is to both strengthen this partnership and replicate it with our other Institution of Higher Education partners across the state.



Connecting with Families!

ECAC and NC SIP are excited to announce the official launch of the *Family Engagement Quality Indicators Checklist (FEQIC)*. Administrators in NC SIP Demonstration Sites joined an informational webinar on June 18th to hear more about the tool and learn how we are supporting the first rollout in the 2019-2020 school year.

These schools will be utilizing the FEQIC tool during their NC SIP School Implementation Team meetings beginning in Fall 2019 to assess family engagement. From the first assessment, schools will identify two indicators to focus on strengthening during the school year. In November, these administrators and NC SIP coordinators will be offered the opportunity to join a half day working session before the 69th Conference on Exceptional Children, in Greensboro, where they will come together to develop ideas and plans for addressing the areas they identified.

As our Demonstration Sites work toward growing relationships with families and their community, we hope the impact will mimic what research has found and improve the outcomes for the students we serve. We look forward to sharing their experiences and lessons learned in the coming year!

In related news, November is Family Engagement Month! This is an opportunity to highlight the important role families play in the education and well-being of their children. It is a time to reflect on the best practices and strategies that support effective family engagement. ECAC will be hosting a number of activities across the state in honor of Family Engagement Month. Consider planning an event for families to acknowledge the importance of the family – school partnership in student achievement.



Welcome Our New Sites

The Exceptional Children Division (ECD), Program Improvement and Professional Development (PIPD) Section would like to welcome and congratulate six new PSU's selected as NC SIP network site partners starting in the 2019-2020 school year. Our new Network Sites and their NC SIP Coordinators are:

Northeast Region – Martin County Public Schools – Lisa Bowen

Southeast Region – Arapahoe Charter – Martha Newman

North Central Region – Central Park School for Children – Abby Stitsinger and Charlie Butchart

Southwest Region – Union County Public Schools – Carrie Rule

Northwest Region – Watauga County Public Schools – Jana Dobbins

Western Region – IC Imagine Charter – Sean Vervain and Ellen Girardi

Please look for these new members at your regional meetings!

Leadership: Creating Change?

Implementing a new initiative or strengthening an existing one? Knowing where to begin can save you time and resources as you move forward. The video linked below reinforces our discussions concerning “developing your critical why” for change. We know from the research by Chip and Dan Heath, that when implementers have a high understanding of “why” change is getting ready to occur, we have greater success with initial implementation and our ability to sustain an intervention over time. Building and communicating your “critical why” for change is a right first step in making the change destination crystal clear for all your stakeholders. Taking this step and building readiness for a new initiative, or strengthening an existing one will increase trust and resiliency within your workplace. Happy implementers correlate to high fidelity of implementation!

To listen to Simon Sinek’s Ted Talk, follow this [link](#).

“People don’t buy WHAT you do, they buy WHY you do it.”

Simon Sinek, *Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action*

2019 SIM Leadership Award – Dr. Elizabeth Gibbs



The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (KU-CRL) national SIM Leadership Award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and excellent service to the Strategic Instruction Model by helping educators become strategic teachers, and, as a result, students become strategic learners.

Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Gibbs for being the 2019 recipient of KU-CRL SIM Leadership Award! Dr. Gibbs is known for her work throughout the state supporting Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) and Content Literacy Continuum (CLC). Beginning in 2009, she was instrumental as the lead consultant in the roll out of the NC CLC project as a member of the Program Improvement and Professional Development team. After 10 years as the Southeast Literacy Consultant, she left to become an independent literacy consultant and continues to support teachers and administrators across the state. She is also a Reading Research to Classroom Practice instructor. Congratulations Dr. Gibbs!

For additional details, about the Leadership Award and Dr. Gibbs, follow this [link](#).

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](#)



Spotlighting our Best Practice Site

The vision of Yadkin County Schools (YCS) is to be the top performing rural school district in North Carolina. The mission of YCS is to prepare all students to be collaborative, life-long learners and responsible citizens. YCS has been in partnership with NC SIP for nearly 13 years. In that time, we have been able to provide much needed professional development to YCS EC teachers. In 2016 we became a Demonstration Site and we were able to extend the newly revised “Reading Research to Classroom Practice” and “Foundations of Math” courses for the first time to regular education teachers and offer “All Leaders Understand, Collaborate, and Support Evidence Based Instruction” to all school and district leadership at that time. In 2017 YCS was selected as a Best Practice Site and we were able to follow up our initial professional development to improve our practices in the area of adolescent literacy at feeder schools Jonesville Elementary, West Yadkin Elementary and Starmount Middle by hosting Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) PD on Word Mapping, Self-Questioning, and Notetaking. After just two years improving the practice of literacy, the student achievement at Jonesville Elementary student exceeded growth at the end of the 2018 school year.

YCS focuses our professional development and professional learning teams on increasing literacy and mathematics skills, increasing rigor, utilizing appropriate technology, and providing authentic academic learning opportunities to prepare students for success after graduation. We have stake holder groups to determine how to best meet the needs of all our students. Recently, our district advisory team used system wide data to plan and implement Reading Research to Classroom Practice, Foundations of Math to all elementary regular education, EC teachers and reading specialists over the next 3-4 years.

Co-teaching has been a service delivery model in our middle and high schools for several years, but we have found that many of our co-teaching teams continue to feel unprepared to provide co-teaching effectively in their classrooms. As a result, we recently provided the courses, “Co-Teaching: Calling All Administrators” and “Co-Teaching: Going beyond the Basics” to all current middle and high co-teaching teams and administration. Our goal is to continue to provide support through coaching and booster sessions to help our co-teacher teams meet the needs of the students in their classrooms. YCS is excited to continue to improve student outcomes and promote the NC SIP initiatives by building capacity in cooperation with our regional coaches and DPI literacy and math consultants in the Piedmont-Triad region.





**Literacy
Regional Coach
Crystal Douglas**

My name is Crystal Douglas. I have served and worked in Iredell-Statesville Schools for 20 years. My current role in ISS is EC Curriculum Coordinator. In this role I support EC curriculum from MTSS to supporting teachers and students working from the Extended Content Standards. I have been a part of the NCSIP project for about 17 years, being one of the first few cohorts to complete Dr. Felton’s training with “overheads”, making the transition to PowerPoint ☺

I currently serve as a Regional Coach in Reading for the Southwest Region. One incident that inspired me to be a better coach is during an instructor training at Chapel Hill, Dean Fixsen was there discussing the change of instruction and teaching. I know this is not quoted exactly, but the thought he shared with us was that coaching and supporting a teacher can have the biggest impact on instruction for students. This thought impacted me highly. It encouraged me to proceed with becoming a regional coach, with the goal of making a bigger impact on improving education, especially reading.

**Kudos to Our FoM &
RRtCP Instructors!**

Between the years of 2000-2019, they have delivered RFT/RRtCP and MFT/FoM to **33,929** participants! RRtCP had **17,473** participants and FoM had **16,456** participants and the numbers increase almost daily!



**Math
Regional Coach
Mark Lunsford**

1. Which PSU do you serve?
Person County
2. What is your role in your PSU?
I teach Math 2 at Person Early College for Innovation and Leadership.
3. Are you a reading or math regional coach?
Math Regional Coach
4. How many years have you been involved with NC SIP?
14 years
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?
Math Foundations changed my life. It was the first time math really made sense to me. I was able to come back to Person High School and implement many of the strategies. It was the main cause of my receiving Teacher of the Year at Person High School and Mineral Springs Middle School. It led me to becoming an Instructional Coach for Winston Salem. I still love to see the light bulb go off during training and know that participants are making connections. I regularly receive emails from former participants asking for my opinion on how to better teach an area. I can't tell you the number of teachers that have told me Math Foundations was the best workshop they have ever taken.
6. What made you want to become a regional coach?
I wanted to spread Math Foundations to other teachers because I know it works. I also wanted to learn from fellow instructors better ways to deliver the material. I constantly learn from every training.
7. Can you provide us with a fun fact about you, a tidbit, or a hobby that is interesting?
I have coached five different sports in my twenty-nine years in education, and I love beach music and shagging.



Cabarrus County Meets or Exceeds Growth in 92% of their Schools!

Have you ever heard the phrase, “successful implementation takes time”? Despite common challenges that all districts encounter, such as, staff turnover, scheduling and competing initiatives, Cabarrus County has stayed the course over the past several years to create real change in the district. By utilizing implementation drivers from Dean Fixsen and the work of the SISEP Center at the Frank Porter Graham Center in Chapel Hill and installing the major components of the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) from the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (KUCRL), the district continues to push their student achievement scores higher and higher and close the gap for many of its students. Cabarrus County has developed district and building level implementation teams, carefully selected implementation sites, provided coaching support and resources through KUCRL. These actions have allowed the district to maintain its focus on quality implementation while overcoming the barriers and challenges it has encountered over the years. Its commitment to build its own professional developers through a badging system with KUCRL, caps off its implementation efforts and has resulted in Cabarrus County gaining attention and recognition across the state. For Cabarrus County, staying the course has truly paid off.

During the NC SIP Developmental Review, Kristin Sinclair discussed the strong focus to sustain a partnership with schools. This is a key factor in successful implementation. She has worked tirelessly to support the teachers who ensure the students are receiving the evidence-based instruction by supporting the implementation drivers within the feeder schools in Cabarrus County.

Cabarrus County student outcomes for 2018-2019 have provided evidence that their implementation is at a high level. Concord High School has made it to the top 48 high schools in North Carolina! Three of their middle schools placed in the top 7 in the State. Cabarrus County met or exceed growth in 92% of their schools. They are in the top 15 of 115 Districts in North Carolina. In addition, CCS placed number one when compared to the 12 largest districts. All this to say that the outcomes for students are a reason to celebrate! Congratulations Cabarrus County Schools!

It was truly an “Exceptional Extravaganza Carnival”!



The North Carolina State Improvement Project (NC SIP) and Burke County Public Schools hosted the Exceptional Extravaganza Carnival at Mountain View Elementary School on Thursday, May 2. Students and their families were invited to enjoy free pizza, popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy. In addition to food, the students enjoyed face painting, posing for photos with superheroes and fun games and crafts, such as bowling, bingo and beading. Information tables and experts were available, too, to answer parent questions about related services, behavior and Individualized Education Plans (IEP). More than 800 students and parents attended. NC SIP is a program funded by the Office of Special Education Programs in the U.S. Department of Education through the Exceptional Children Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. NC SIP works to improve the quality and effectiveness of educational programs and instruction for students with disabilities in North Carolina.

To read more, follow this [Link to Burke County's Website](#).

UPDATES & REMINDERS

New Observation Tools to Support Implementation of RRtCP and FoM Strategies in the Classroom

We are pleased to offer a new Observation Tool that will support teachers who have completed the Foundations of Math and/or Reading Research to Practice courses. The new tool will be available on the NC SIP website soon for anyone who would like to see if the research-based strategies from the course are being transferred to the classroom. It is a great self-reflection tool for teachers who would like to ensure their instruction is fully utilizing the information that was taught in the course.

For our **NC SIP PSUs that are data collectors**, we will be sharing a link for you to submit your data collection teachers' Observation Tool online. **We will offer professional development on these Observation Tools on October 11 at Catawba County Schools from 9:00-3:00 or Wayne County Schools on October 25 from 9:00-3:00.** Contact your regional consultant for additional registration information.

NC SIP Coordinators Information for Coordinators - hyperlinked

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Developmental Reviews-Final Copy
September 30, 2019

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Expenditure Report – Final Copy
September 30, 2019

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Implementation Plans for 2019-2020
October 8, 2019

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NC SIP Coordinators Meetings
November 7, 2019

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NC SIP Coordinators Meetings
January 30, 2020

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NC SIP Spring Network Conference
March 24-26, 2020

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NC SIP Coordinators Meetings
May 7, 2019
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As of September, 133 FoM licensure candidates and 132 RRtCP licensure candidates have attended FoM and RRtCP courses across the state! ***Thank you, instructors***, for your meticulous attention to uploading all necessary documents!

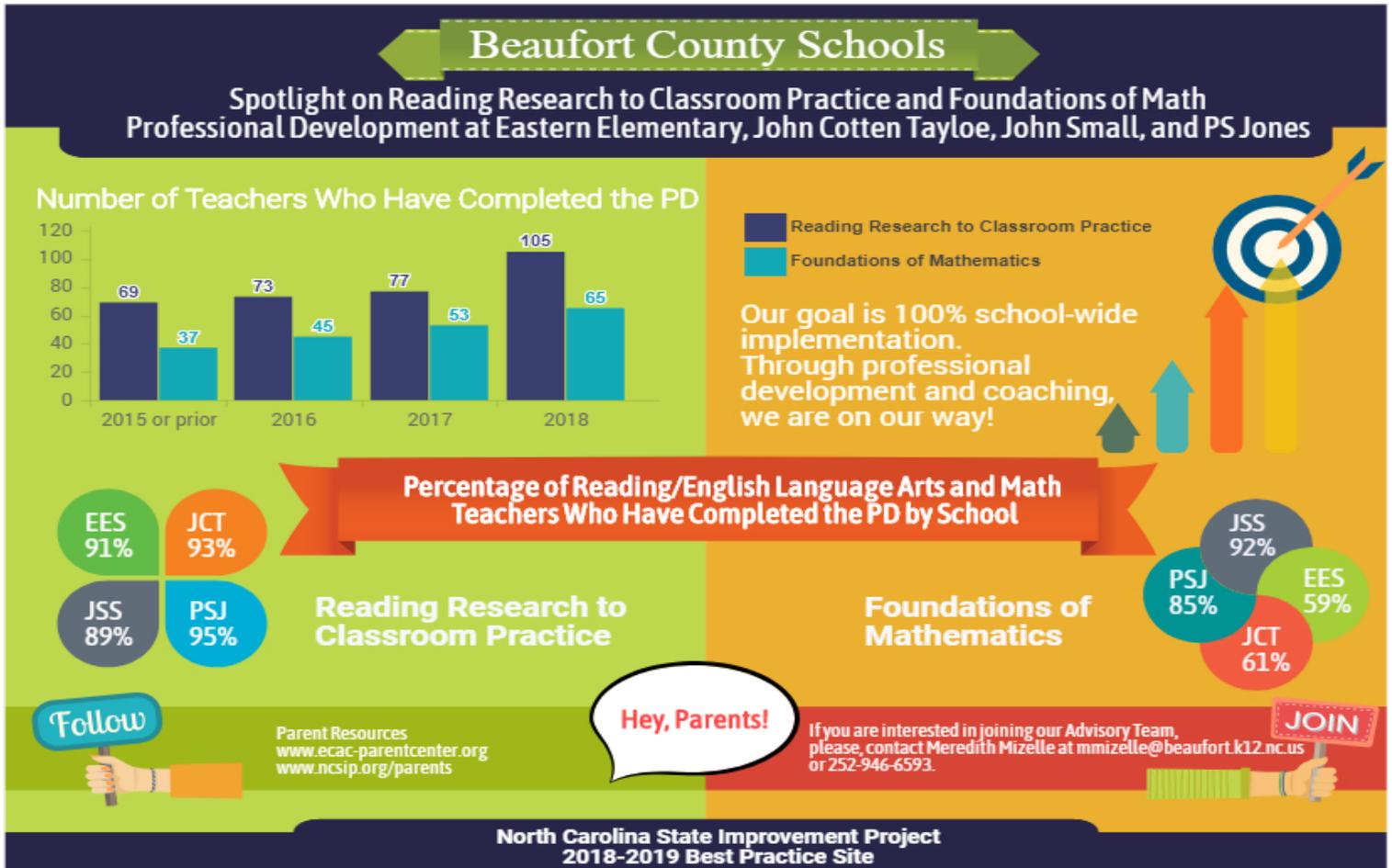
Don't forget when uploading licensure tasks to include the following:

- *Documentation of Course Completion Form
- *CORE test protocols (RRtCP)
- *Links to pre- and post-videos (FoM)
- *All homework responses
- *Number Knowledge Test Record (FoM)
- *Post Survey (Scored for RRtCP, not FoM)

Feedback can be expected within 4-6 weeks of NC DPI's receipt.

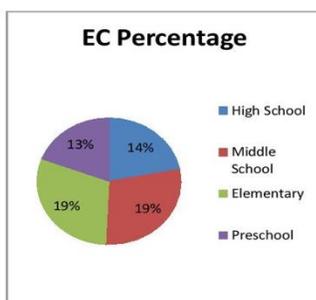
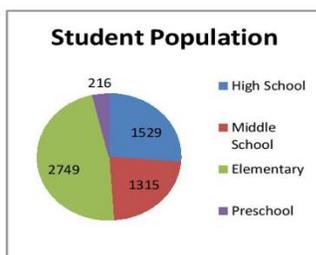
Telling Our Stories through Infographics!

The infographics presented at the NC SIP Spring Network Conference were outstanding! Check out the [MENTI LINK](#) to post a new comment or to see what others have to say about your infographic!



SCOTLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS

Demonstration Site



What's happening in Scotland County Schools?

- Added another middle school and feeder elementary school to the grant while continuing to monitor other two schools
- Offer Reading Research to Classroom Practice and Foundations of Math twice a year
- Two staff members working on becoming trainers for RRtCP and FoM
- Co-teaching training for NCSIP schools
- Two program specialists attended Coaching at the EC Conference
- SPIRE, Corrective Reading, and Number Worlds programs being utilized



Adapted "Hands-On Equations" for Low-Incidence Population

