

NC SIP Connect

Program Improvement & Professional Development

Winter 2017

NC SIP Spring Network Conference & Instructor Institute

The NCSIP Spring Network Conference will be held at Embassy Suites in Greensboro, NC on March 28-30, 2017. During the two-day conference and one-day Instructor Institute, the 71 LEA grant participants, four IHE partners, and other supporters of NC SIP will enjoy nationally recognized speakers and networking opportunities to share accomplishments with one another. Current instructors will participate in the Instructor Institute to deepen their knowledge of content specific topics.

Dr. Valerie Faulkner will give a special guest presentation on Tuesday evening, March 28 titled, "Opportunity, Equity & Heterogeneous Grouping: Rethinking the 'achievement gap' in schools."

2017 Speakers

- Greg Tang
- Dr. Devery Mock Ward
- Dr. Louise Spear-Swerling

All Leaders Understand & Collaborate to Support Evidence-Based Practices

Professional Learning Opportunity

All Leaders Understand... is the professional learning opportunity for district and building leaders to dig deeper into the NC SIP Implementation plan. Leaders work through activities as a team during a face-to-face day with DPI Consultants to understand the compelling why of authentic engagement in school improvement. Teams will collaboratively use tools provided by the National Implementation Research

Network to focus on building readiness, implementation stages, implementation teams, and implementation drivers. Course participants will gain the skills to develop, implement, and evaluate district and school plans that support the improvement of core content instruction and achievement of all students, especially those with disabilities.

Over the coming months, this professional learning

will evolve and will be offered in a blended model. When the blended format becomes available, participants will complete online modules which provide an overview of the *Math Foundations and Reading Research to Classroom Practice* courses. The modules will have activities and videos to familiarize administrators with the content of these five-day courses.



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



Spotlighting our Best Practice Center



At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, Catawba County Schools Exceptional Children teachers participated in professional development for selected researched based intervention programs: Language! Live, Language!, Letterland Intervention, TransMath, and Number Worlds. Additionally, two co-teaching courses were offered, co-teaching teams of teachers from several schools attended. We have collaborated with other districts in the state to include professionals in our courses. Our Instructional Specialist Team provides follow-up coaching on program implementation.

All EC teachers in our selected schools have receive professional development in selected Evidence Based

Practices for literacy and math and are providing instruction utilizing these resources. The fidelity of implementation is monitored and feedback is given through the EC Instructional Specialist Team.

This October and November, all of our instructors participated in the recertification process, which Catawba hosted for our region. We are currently conducting professional development in Reading Research to Classroom Practice at our identified middle school and Foundations of Math at our identified elementary school. Participants include EC and RE teachers and support staff. Focused conversations are being held regarding developmental learning stages of students; differentiated, explicit, multi-sensory, systematic instruction; and instructional implementation choices based on student need. In addition, a Keys to Literacy Comprehension Routine course was just completed at our selected middle

school which has a focused plan to increase literacy skills with middle school students.

The CCS EC Department hosted five EC Parent Nights this school year. Our goal was to provide parents with information and knowledge about EC services in Catawba County. EC staff from each feeder area gathered to present information and talk with parents about the services their children are receiving. Feedback has been positive!

Our Parent Advisory Committee met in the Fall. We have representatives from teachers, administration, outside agencies, parents and students.

We look forward to continued work with NC SIP and our work of improving the quality of education and instruction for students with disabilities in Catawba County.



Date to Remember - March 31, 2017
PRC 082
Expenditure Report is Due



Instructors Don't Forget -
To check the NC SIP website
for new materials

Getting to Know Our Regional Coaches



Anna Jarrett - Math Regional Coach

- What LEA do you serve? [Duplin County Schools](#)
- What is your role in your LEA? [I am our District Lead Teacher of Mathematics, specifically serving our middle and high school math teachers.](#)
- 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? [Being able to build a Math Foundations community through my role as regional coach has been very exciting. We have shared resources and bounced ideas off one another while being able to reach more teachers and build a larger capacity of instructors. We have had instructors come to parts of our professional development for coaching on targeted content areas. At times dates are hard to work out, so we will actually be videotaping parts of Math Foundations for instructors who were not able to be there on content they wanted to see presented again.](#)
- What made you want to become a regional coach? [When I first attended Math Foundations, there were so many lightbulbs popping on in my head throughout the course. I was fascinated by how much I was learning, and if I was learning so much, I know this could have a significant impact with our math students. While I have always tried to teach conceptually with student discovery in my classroom, Math Foundations lays out everything so wonderfully for teachers. My experiences in participating in Math Foundations has made me want to shout about this course from rooftops, so when I heard about the regional coach role, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to spread the word.](#)
- Can you provide us with a fun fact about you, a tidbit, or a hobby that is interesting? [While I love math, specifically teaching math, reading is one of my first loves. My favorite thing in the world to do is sit with my beach chair in the edge of the ocean and read a good book.](#)

Carol Gillespie – Literacy Regional Coach

- What LEA do you serve? [Cumberland County](#)
- What is your role in your LEA? [I am a gen. ed. instructional coach at Mary McArthur Elem.](#)
- 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? [One thing that I think of and try to implement in my everyday job is something we learned from Dr. Rock: For coaching to be effective, teachers must participate in:

 - Study of Theory/Best Educational Practice
 - Peer Observation of Best Practice
 - One-on-One Coaching
 - Group Coaching](#)

[As I begin to work with others who will be teaching RRtCP with me, I will look for ways to integrate all four of these into my coaching duties.](#)

- What made you want to become a regional coach? [I have been teaching Reading Foundations \(now Reading Research to Classroom Practice\) but I wanted to become an expert on ALL of it so that I could serve both general education and exceptional children teachers better. I also wanted to scale my impact and network with others across the state.](#)
- Can you provide us with a fun fact about you, a tidbit, or a hobby that is interesting? [I earned my doctorate in curriculum and instruction a few years ago. It was the greatest challenge of my life. I thought about quitting at least a hundred times.](#)

Attention Instructors

Please tell your course participants that they do not need to complete the permission form to request permission to access the course materials. The copyright permission form is for certified instructors requesting permission to use the materials, which are copyright protected, in delivering the course for payment.



The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) is a regional university serving approximately 12 local education agencies (LEAs). According to the 2012 Indian Education Report on Reading, six of the LEAs, which enroll a high population of American Indian students, are significantly behind their peers in the areas of reading and math based on state EOG data. To address this issue, I wrote a proposal to partner with the North Carolina State Improvement Project (NC SIP) to instruct our pre-service special and general education teachers to be effectively prepared to implement evidence based practices and instructional strategies in reading and math.

As the NCSIP/IHE coordinator, I have worked closely with NCSIP regional consultants to fulfill our goals. Since joining the project in fall 2014, four faculty members have been certified as instructors, two in Reading Research to Classroom Practice and two in Foundations of Math. We have embedded course content into six of our reading and math method courses, collaborated with other IHEs such as ECU to disseminate information at national conferences, and hosted a Town Hall for local Exceptional Children Directors regarding the project and efforts to collaborate with local LEAs.

We are excited to look at data on the outcomes of our pre-service teachers in regards to state testing for licensure. We have already received positive feedback from our graduates who feel they are better prepared to implement the evidence-based practices in their classrooms.

Submitted by Gretchen Robinson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP



The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) is excited once again to be a partner with the NCSIP grant. As many of you know, ECAC is a statewide parent center primarily funded by the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. ECAC offers a variety of services designed for families, educators, and other professionals to support families in becoming active participants in their child's education. Browse our website to learn more about ECAC (www.ecac-parentcenter.org). You can access a wide variety of information on topics associated with special education as well as user-friendly tools and materials for parents and professionals.

If you click on the NC State Improvement Project tab you will find a wealth of literacy and math resources. Two of the most requested handouts are, "Questions Parents Can Ask about Reading Improvement" and "Questions Parents Can Ask About Math Instruction", which are also available in Spanish. These tools help parents feel more confident when talking with their child's teacher about their child's progress. The format is parent friendly, providing space for parents to write the responses. It also helps families gather specific information about their child's progress and ways to help their child be successful. If you would like copies to share with families, please email your request to broberts@ecacmail.org or call me, Beverly Roberts at 1- 800-962-6817ext 323.

**I look forward to seeing you
at the NCSIP conference in March!**

Submitted by Beverly Roberts

Regional Consultants and Coaches

	Literacy Consultant	Math Consultant	Literacy Coach	Math Coach
1-Northeast	Bridget Bilbro	Carol Moffitt		
2-Southeast	Beth Gilchrist	Carol Moffitt	Teresa Anderson	Anna Jarrett, Corey Kick
3-North Central	Melissa Towery	Melissa Towery	Ann Cozzocrea, Ginger Starling, Jenny Brown, Sharon Hopper	Jane Green, Jenny Ainslie, Michael Jones, Richard Stover, Mark Lunsford
4-Sandhills	Laura Dendy	Melissa Towery	Carol Gillespie	
5-Piedmont-Triad	Doria Sullivan	Doria Sullivan	Megan Rives, Robyn Varga, Stephanie Stephenson	Alandous Hawkins, Krista Boyd, Marty Erskine
6-Southwest	Vacant	Doria Sullivan	Crystal Douglas, Rachael Varriale, Yonna Acuff	Cindy Farmer
7-Northwest	Melanie Sharpe	Melissa Towery	Cynde Gilmore	Heather Highman
8-Western	Laura Marsden	Melissa Towery	Carla Melton, Karen Sumner, Teresa Queen	