



The University of Georgia

College of Education

Louis Castenell, Dean

NEW THIS MONTH... March 2001

UGA-Clarke Schools Partnership: Led by the College of Education, UGA announced the first contract with a local school system in its pioneering Partnerships for Children program. The unique comprehensive program brings together the university, local schools and the community for education renewal to improve student learning. The five-year agreement between UGA and the Clarke County School District also involves faculty from UGA Colleges of Family and Consumer Sciences, Arts and Sciences, and the School of Social Work. This is seen as the first of many partnership agreements between UGA and school systems across Georgia. **Contact:** Jenny Oliver, 706-542-3942, jpo@coe.uga.edu

National Report on Mathematics Education says

Changes Needed: A new National Research Council study directed by Regents Professor of mathematics education Jeremy Kilpatrick says changes in instruction, curricula and assessment in the nation's schools are necessary to improve students' proficiency in mathematics. **Read the report:** www.nap.edu/books/0309069955/html/index.html

Georgia Beginning Teacher Academy: About 200 young educators learned practical strategies for managing classrooms, teaching diverse populations and working with difficult to reach students at the Georgia Beginning Teacher Academy in Atlanta February 23-24. The academy was co-sponsored by the Interactive Teaching Network, based in UGA's College of Education. **Contact:** Katie McLaughlin, 1-800-296-4770 or 706-542-4770,

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PROGRAM FOCUS

The Georgia League of Professional Schools is a state-wide voluntary network of 60 public K-9 schools dedicated to school renewal through shared governance and reliance on democratic principles. The school community composed of educators, parents, community members and students decide which domains of teaching and learning they will direct their efforts toward and what instructional improvements they will make. Shared governance is implemented around teaching and learning issues derived from a covenant (a set of goal-based guiding principles). Action research is used to improve the school's ability for informed decision-making and to improve teaching and learning by documenting what works. Professional development and interchanges among member schools are integral parts of the League's work and its efforts to create a learning organization.

To support its work throughout the state, the League has formed partnerships with other universities including Valdosta State, North Georgia College and State University, Fort Valley State, and Georgia State. In addition, there are approximately 50 schools engaged in affiliated work in Nevada, Oklahoma and Washington.

Impact Data: Two separate studies reported improved grades and higher standardized test scores, fewer disciplinary referrals and suspensions, improved attitudes towards learning, increased participation in higher-level mathematics courses, higher GPA among graduates who attend college, and increased student self-esteem.

Target Group: K-9 public schools

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FOR THE RECORD

COE teacher education graduates have a pass rate on the national PRAXIS II teacher exam of 93%.

For more information:

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