New Member to NET-Q Team

NET-Q Educational Psychology and Special Education Department Representative

Dr. DaShaunda Patterson is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education in the College of Education at Georgia State University. She will be assisting with NET-Q Teacher Residencies (P-12 Special Education) in the partner schools in five metro districts: DeKalb, Gwinnett, Fulton, Clayton and Cobb counties.

NEW NET-Q District Coordinators

Terry Magaro, Clayton County—is the NET-Q Project Coordinator for Clayton County, and has 16 plus years working in Professional Learning. Prior to that she taught high school, served as a county Instructional Specialist (supervising the instructional programs in 19 schools from PreK to 12th grade), and was principal at Brandon Hall School. She has also taught juniors in the College of Education at both Clayton State College and University and Mercer University at the Henry County Regional Campus. In the area of Professional Learning, Terry oversaw the initial proposal and implementation of the Clayton County TAPP (Teacher Alternative Preparation Program), coached new principals, and continues to serve as a trainer for new teachers and administrators. These experiences provide an excellent background for her new venture into her role with the NET-Q Program as it works with a Coach in Residence, Central Learning Community and Teacher Residencies in Clayton County Schools. “The NET-Q initiatives are some of the most exciting new endeavors in public education in recent years and I am so excited to be a part of this wonderful new program.”

Dr. Annette Waller, Cobb County—is the NET-Q Project Coordinator in the Cobb County School District. She has witnessed so many innovative and thought-provoking learning opportunities taking place in the Cobb NET-Q Schools. "This is truly where children come first" she says. Teachers are empowered through meaningful training experiences, and networking is Cobb County’s way for enhancing teacher quality. “When teachers succeed, their students succeed and with Georgia State University’s NET-Q Project, everyone is a winner. I am looking forward to this partnership.”

DeNelle West, Gwinnett County—is the Teacher Development Coordinator and NET-Q District Coordinator for Gwinnett County Public Schools. She serves as a liaison between Georgia State University and the four participating schools within the district. DeNelle also assists with the facilitation of Mentor training that focuses on mentoring and coaching strategies to support Teacher Residents. In addition to training mentors, she assists with training participating teachers on instructional strategies critical for beginning teacher success.

Lydia Rice, Fulton County—is the NET-Q Project Coordinator for Fulton County. She has worked in Fulton for over 10 years. Lydia entered education through the GTAPP program at Georgia State University and also received her master’s at GSU. She is a National Board Certified Teacher, ESOL endorsed, and will complete her doctoral degree this May. Lydia is passionate about new teacher induction and will be supervising student teachers in one of the Fulton County NET-Q schools this semester.

Mina Vezzie, DeKalb County—is the NET-Q Project Coordinator for the DeKalb County School System. She earned her M.Ed., Educational Sociology at Wayne State University and B.A. Sociology at Xavier University of Louisiana. With over 20 years of experience, she has served public and independent schools to enhance services for instructional leaders, students and parents to develop school-based capacity and increase student performance. Ms. Vezzie provides professional guidance for focused student interventions, academic coaching, partnership development and managing diversity.

NET-Q Teacher Resident and Mentor Meeting

Teacher Residents and Mentor Teachers met together to build relationships and share skills for the classroom. All participants were provided resource books, flash drives and other instructional items to assist with professional development. DeNelle West, NET-Q District Coordinator for Gwinnett County, facilitated a mentor teaching session to build cognitive coaching skills.

NET-Q Teacher Residents: Albany State University

Albany State University’s teacher residents (teacher mentors listed in parentheses) from left to right: Angela Thomas (LaShonna Davis) - Lillie Cooper Primary, Tiowena Spann (Ben Crowdis) - Calhoun County Middle/High, Pamela Ponder (Shellie Price) - North Mitchell County Elementary, Charmaine Riley (Richard Gay) - Calhoun County Middle/High, and Denise Allen (Ella Robertson) - Carver Elementary.

NET-Q Advisory Council Meeting

Robert Hendrick, Research Associate with Dr. Bill Curlette’s Research/Evaluation Team, presented a Fall 2010 training for conducting TIP (Teacher-Intern-Professor Model) and AAR (Anchor Action Research). These are two types of research opportunities available to NET-Q partner schools.

NET-Q Communiciqué
CCLC Teams and Facilitators

Cross Career Learning Communities (CCLCs) — offer a structure for school-based professional learning communities that draw on the expertise of both novice and experienced educators. CCLCs focus on improving student achievement through the careful examination of student and educator work and the consideration of dilemmas of professional practice. CCLCs positively affect teacher satisfaction, thus increasing teacher retention.

Gwinnett County Snapshots

Visitors from the Singapore Ministry of Education participated in a demonstration of Cross Career Learning Communities while visiting the United States in November. Physical education is receiving increased emphasis in Singapore because of the many contributions it makes to the development of the whole child. Dr. Jacklynn Lund, from the Department of Kinesiology and Health traveled to Singapore last July to help teachers and student educators to understand the physical education program. Singapore uses a merit pay system that rewards teachers for student performance on national assessments and these new assessments will be used for merit pay as well as to determine program excellence. The delegation that visited Georgia State was on a study trip to gather information on various types of professional development used in the United States. Along with participating in the CCLC at Meadowcreek High School, they also visited physical education and health classes at Nesbit Elementary School and physical education classes at Lilburn Middle School.

Fulton County Snapshots: Dunwoody Springs Elementary

National Group of Educators for Gifted Education

Dunwoody Springs Elementary School was chosen to be an Action Lab in recognition of its School-wide Enrichment Reading program! Action Labs give educators from around the country an opportunity to see exemplary programs in action. Guests from the National Association for Gifted Children conference visited Dunwoody Springs to observe the SEM program that was piloted at Dunwoody Springs last year. Teachers and students provided feedback for the coaching and mentoring teams, many of whom were able to see clear results of how the enrichment program has helped generate excitement in reading throughout the school.

Did you know that . . .

CCLC coaches at their school can have their OWN CCLC (CCLC coordinators and the NET-Q CCLC coordinators) to join and facilitate it? It’s happening right now at Nesbit Elementary School.

You can visit CCLCs at other NET-Q partner schools? Many thanks to Meadowcreek High School for hosting visiting educators from the United States and far (Singapore Ministry of Education). You can grow your CCLC work by having a 5-day Institute for your faculty, at your school? Connie, Susan, and the Lilburn Middle School team are planning for a week of critical friendship in July 2011.

You can have a CCLC comprised of central office, local, and County personnel? Do you have a CCLC comprised of central office personnel? Your learning leader does. Of, your school administrative team can re-invent itself as a CCLC. The leadership team at South Gwinnett High School has.

If any of these ideas sound promising, call or email us. We can dream up something together that would just “right” for your school.

Connie & Susan NET-Q CCLC coordinators
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Atlanta Public Schools Snapshot: Beecher Hills Elementary

Beecher Hills Elementary School is a small PK-5 school located in southeast Atlanta. Beecher Hills is in its 3rd year as an International Baccalaureate (IB) School and is eagerly anticipating becoming an Authorized IB World School at the end of this school year. As a part of the NET-Q grant, the administration and teachers attended a week-long training on Cross Career Learning Communities (CCLCs). Participation in the CCLCs is voluntary (with the exception of teaching interns and their cooperating teachers). Teachers are encouraged to participate in the monthly sessions are given release time. Thea Crosby, Instructional Coach and school NET-Q coordinator, believes that CCLCs add a valuable layer of support for teachers. Ms. Little, states, “Participating in the NET-Q grant as a CCLC coach at Beecher Hills Elementary has provided me with tools and training to lead my colleagues in meaningful and relevant conversations when participating in professional development and reviewing data, teacher and student work. The protocols provide clear and consistent standards for each conversation that result in greater success for the school, teachers, and students.”

In addition to the work with CCLCs, the NET-Q grant has allowed Beecher Hills to develop as a professional development school. Beecher Hills’ teachers have served as cooperating teachers for interns this school year from Georgia State University. The faculty of Beecher Hills looks forward to benefiting from additional grant components such as the Coach in Residence.

Cobb County Snapshots

Ranged against thoughtful and enriching experiences is the ability to move through meaningful hands on activities. In the photos below you will see a classroom transformed to model an operating room.

In another photo you will see a teacher in residence conducting and modeling a math lesson on the active board. Pictured to the right, Lindley Middle School’s 7th grade math team are planning for a CCLC at Meadowcreek High School, they also visited physical education and health classes at Nesbit Elementary School and physical education classes at Lilburn Middle School.

NET-Q Leadership Residents

Fulton County NET-Q Leadership Intern: Chris Canter

As a Fulton County Schools NET-Q Leadership Intern, Canter was assigned to Mimosa Elementary School and Ronald E. McNair Middle School during the first part of the 2010-2011 school year and will continue his internship at Dunwoody Springs Elementary School and Banneker High School this spring. Canter says, “My most valuable experience has been learning how to manage large faculties on a daily basis, including instilling that elementary students are placed on proper buses. I have enjoyed working with teachers on instructional activities and increasing knowledge and skills in these areas.” He also recognized how his leadership classes at Georgia State University have assisted him in his leadership development.

DeKalb County NET-Q Leadership Intern: Emily Thomas

Serving as the 2010-2011 NET-Q Intern for GSU and the DeKalb County School System has provided Emily Thomas with opportunities to infuse classroom theory with practical experience. Her classes at GSU have informed her internship, and her internship has augmented her understanding of the importance of creating school cultures that contribute to student learning. Ms. Thomas interned at Arabia Mountain High School, where she was included interviewing for quality staff, developing an after-school program for students, monitoring classroom instruction, and working with small groups of teachers. Her second semester placement at McNair High School so far consists of assisting in developing student activities for the school’s Graduation Academy and preparing for the implementation of the Department of Education’s LEADER and CLASS Keys. "What I’m learning is that no matter what population a school serves, what a school has, the greater equalizer is quality teaching and learning experiences for all students."