Fall 2003 Colloquium Series

Special Education and Minority Achievement: Using Research to Inform our Teaching and Testing Practices.

The College of Education’s Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education (MIMAUE) and the Department of Special education (EDSP) are pleased to present the MIMAUE Fall 2003 Colloquium. This colloquium will feature four outstanding special education researchers discussing their recent research projects and programs. Direct implications will be drawn from this research to both the diagnosis of children with special needs and to the most effective methods of teaching to ensure high achievement. Students, Faculty, Staff and all persons interested in high-quality education for ALL students are invited to attend.

The Colloquium will be held in Room 3111, Cole Field House, on the University of Maryland College Park Campus. Sessions begin at 4:00 PM and end at 6:00 PM.

Schedule:

September 17, 2003
Dr. Deborah Speece, Professor, Department of Special Education, UMCP
Title: Response to Instruction as a Method of Unbiased Assessment
Description: This presentation will focus on the results of a longitudinal investigation designed to assess the validity of a response-to-instruction paradigm for the identification of young children who require instruction more intensive than is available in general education classrooms. Comparisons to other methods of identification (e.g., IQ-achievement discrepancies) will be made emphasizing ethnic and gender composition of the classification methods. The academic and behavioral consequences associated with persistent nonresponsiveness to instruction also will be discussed.

October 15, 2003
Dr. Margaret J. McLaughlin, Professor, Department of Special Education, UMCP
Title: Students with Disabilities and No Child Left Behind: What are we Learning about Schools that are Getting Results?
Description: This presentation will overview research findings of a 5-year institute that is examining accountability reforms and students with disabilities in California, Maryland, New York and Texas. This presentation will focus on major policy issues as well as school level practices associated with higher levels of achievement for students with disabilities.

November 12, 2003
Dr. Peter Leone, Professor, Department of Special Education, UMCP
Title: School Exclusion, Disability, and Urban Education: Disenfranchising Students at the Margins in New York.
Description: High stakes testing, more stringent disciplinary policies, and greater levels of accountability have placed pressure on school administrators to meet state and locally mandated benchmarks for school performance. Using case study data, an analysis of practices in New York City during the past two years have led to the systematic exclusion of large numbers of students will be presented. Methods and programs employed by other urban school systems to educate students with a variety of educational, social, and emotional needs will illustrate alternatives to school exclusion. Maryland data will also be discussed.

December 10, 2003
Dr. Steve Graham, Professor, Department of Special Education, UMCP
Title: Improving the writing performance of struggling writers attending schools that serve a large percentage of minority children from low-income families.
Description: This presentation will describe an intervention study conducted with primary grade children with writing problems. The population consisted of mostly Black and Hispanic children attending urban schools that mostly serve low-income families. Both a strategy instruction approach and a strategy approach plus training for transfer had a positive impact on students’ knowledge and writing performance.

Refreshments will be provided by the College of Education Outreach Office.

For further information, please visit www.education.umc.edu/MIMAUE or call Martin L. Johnson, MIMAUE Director at 301-405-0246.