The U.S. Department of Education and the Office of English Language Acquisition have awarded two University of Texas at Arlington bilingual education professors nearly $1.9 million to improve preparation for teachers who serve English learners.

Luis Rosado, director of the College of Education and Health Professions Center for Bilingual Education, along with Carla Amaro-Jiménez, assistant professor of bilingual/ESL education, worked to obtain the grant.

Jeanne Gerlach, dean of the UT Arlington College of Education and Health Professions, said the funds would strengthen the University’s expertise in a critical area of education research and instruction.

“Our bilingual program is recognized as one of the best in the state and in the nation,” Gerlach said. “This grant is significant as it helps support our efforts to engage teachers and students through language immersion programs.”

The faculty team will conduct a five-year study to identify the impact of programs they have developed in the areas of second language acquisition program and science, technology, engineering, and math initiatives.

Rosado said the study would help produce better-prepared teachers to serve the needs of the increasing number of linguistically diverse children and their families.

“The STEM initiatives will provide in-service teachers with the content area expertise and the Spanish academic vocabulary to deliver instruction at the same level of complexity in both Spanish and English,” he said.

Another component of the study will focus on college dropout prevention. To accomplish the goal, the program will hire 20 college mentors specializing in STEM disciplines to offer guidance and academic support to the younger students.
Rosado said the program would provide minority and high school students with opportunities to talk to young college students who faced the same challenges that they are currently facing. Moreover, college students can share their expertise and motivate them to degree completion and enrollment in higher education.

“With a program like this, we can minimize the graduation and college attendance gap that exists between minorities and non-minority students,” Rosado added.

Amaro-Jiménez noted that the instruction would pose no financial burden on the teachers’ local school districts.

“The preparation will be held in academies or workshops that are free of charge over the course of the grant period,” she said. “The teachers will, in return, act as trainers in their schools and districts.”

The project includes partnerships with the Arlington, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, and Mansfield public school districts, the Dallas County Community College District, and Tarrant County College.

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) GRANT TO SUPPORT SCIENCE & MATH TEACHERS**

Dr. Ann Cavallo, from the College of Education & Health Professions, has received the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant for $1,450,000 from National Science Foundation (NFS). The grant is to support the education and certification of new science and math teachers. The University of Texas at Arlington College of Education & Health Professions and College of Science will work with Arlington, Dallas, HEB and Fort Worth Independent School Districts and SE Tarrant County Community College on the five-year project, placing the teacher candidates in early field experiences with mentor teachers in the four districts. The program focuses on preparing secondary biology, earth science teachers, and middle level science and mathematics teachers. This new grant is on the heels of a previously funded NSF Robert Noyce Grant for $900,000 to prepare secondary physics, chemistry, and mathematics teachers.

Each of the two NSF grants offer two-year, $10,000 per year scholarships to selected undergraduate students seeking certification in middle school science/math, and in high school earth science, biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. In addition, the grant will allow for the support of post-baccalaureates seeking to switch careers and become secondary math or science teachers. These returning students are eligible to apply for a one-year, $10,000 scholarship. In exchange for the generous scholarship support, the newly certified math and physical science teachers will pledge to serve for at least two years in a high-need school for each year of scholarship support.

In addition to the previous NSF grant, this new NSF funding complements the ongoing $700K grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Math Science Technology Teacher Preparation Academy awarded to Drs. Cavallo and Hale, and the $1.4M UTeach Arlington program sponsored by the National Mathematics and Science Initiative with significant support from Texas Instruments, awarded to Drs. Hale, Cavallo, and Lopez.

**DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY: MOON MISSION**

Is it possible for the human body to withstand living on the moon and eventually a manned mission to Mars? An assistant professor of kinesiology at The University of Texas at Arlington is helping NASA's space program search for an answer to that question. David Keller is the principal investigator in a NASA pilot study examining how exposure to the moon's partial gravity affects astronauts' ability to regulate their body temperature.
Keller has obtained a three-year, $500,000 grant for the study, which is tied into The Vision for Space Exploration announced by President George W. Bush in 2004. Bush called for a return to the moon by 2020 for extended stays as preparation for what would eventually be a manned mission to Mars.

One major obstacle is that the human body isn't suited for space. When astronauts return to earth, their skeletal muscle shrinks, and their heart function is often reduced or impaired and they lose bone density.

"When people come back to Earth from space they have trouble even standing upright," said Keller, who is an expert on human physiology and cardiovascular distress. Humans also lose the ability to regulate their body temperature, which is what Keller is tasked with solving.

Other researchers will examine how exposure to partial gravity affects basic heart functions and the digestive system. What's already known is that exposure to the microgravity environment of space impairs an astronaut's ability to increase blood flow to the skin for adequate heat dissipation.

"It's relatively unimportant when they're in space because there's less demand on skeletal muscle, and therefore, the heat generated by the muscle during work is minimal due to the microgravity.” Also, current space suits don't allow sweat to evaporate to cool astronauts down.

Keller's lunar pilot studies will simulate lunar gravity effects on the body using a bed-rest model. Human volunteers will be confined to a bed for 30 days with the angle of the bed adjusted between 10 degrees head up and zero degrees when they sleep, which is normal.

"For microgravity, historically we have used a six-degree head down tilt which mimics, from a cardiovascular stand-point, the effect of removing gravity," Keller said.

Keller's work is representative of the kind of research that is a hallmark of The University of Texas at Arlington, an institution of 33,439 students that is on the rise and working toward becoming a nationally recognized, Tier One research institution.

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN GERLACH

It is an exciting time to be a part of the College of Education and Health Professions; we continue to see incredible scholarship from our faculty as we continue to enhance the infrastructure that will allow our faculty to continue to flourish for years to come.

Despite the impact of the economy and the reduction of state funding, that all institutions are navigating, through I am pleased to report that we continue to meet the demand both in the classroom and in faculty scholarship. Our programs are growing, research funding is high and we currently have more graduate students than ever before. All this being said, we continue to strive towards an ambitious vision that includes increased interdisciplinary research and growing our campus footprint to increase our designated teaching and lab facilities. We have accomplished so much, but still have much to do.

Jeanne
The mission of The Center for K-16 Education Policy and Research (KEPR Center), founded in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at The University of Texas at Arlington, is to produce and disseminate cutting-edge research on K-16 education to inform policy and practice. We are guided by the belief that educational leadership and opportunity are strengthened by research that takes systemic, integrated approaches to understanding persistent problems across the educational continuum.

KEPR Center’s areas of expertise are organized around the strengths of the ELPS faculty in leadership, access and success in both K-12 and higher education contexts. As a leader in the K-16 movement, KEPR Center also explores what it means to take a K-16 perspective conceptually, practically, and methodologically across these areas of inquiry and in effecting educational policy.

As one of the only educational research centers in the country focusing on K-16 issues and perspectives, KEPR Center hopes to serve as a national resource for information and dialogue about K-16 education. To these ends, KEPR Center will build a clearinghouse of K-16 scholarly literature and provide forums for scholarly conversations about the K-16 movement in education. For example, KEPR Center hopes to host a two-part conference with nationally recognized researchers to establish a K-16 agenda for educational researchers in the U.S.

LUMINANT DONATES $30,000 IN SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

By: Luminant via Business Wire News Releases

The company’s donation will support The University of Texas at Arlington’s “Energy and Environmental Science Education Summer Institute” program, to be held June 24-29. Through field workshops, classroom seminars, power plant and mine tours, and inquiry based curriculum activities educators will gain insight into the energy industry and best reclamation practices to take back to their students, schools, and communities. Dr. Ann Cavallo is Director of this program (pictured, left) with Dr. Kevin White as Co-director (pictured, far right). Robert Gentry of Luminant (pictured, center) facilitates this program.

“With the potential to reach nearly 6,000 students, opportunities like these help equip teachers with the knowledge, tools and resources they need to effectively communicate energy-related topics with their students,” said Robert Gentry, curriculum manager of Luminant’s employee-focused continuing-education center, Luminant Academy. “We appreciate the opportunity to help them gain a greater understanding about the link between energy and the environment.”

Participating teachers will also receive three hours of graduate credit upon completion. For more information on the workshop, please contact UT Arlington Associate Dean for Teacher Education Dr. Ann Cavallo cavallo@uta.edu.
Research Briefs

CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING AND LONGEVITY:
HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS LIVE HEALTHY LIVES

Currently over 100 participants take part in exercise interventions aimed at reducing fall risk and improving independence.

A generous gift from Anthony and Xeita Nagy supports the important work being done within the Center for Healthy Living and Longevity.

Thanks to the generosity of Betsy and Steffen Palko, 5 students received a scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in the new Mind, Brain & Education program. Visit the MBE website! (http://www.uta.edu/coehp/mind-brain/index.php).

CONCUSSION EXPERTS TO TEAM UP AT UT ARLINGTON FOR SAFER PLAY

UT Arlington will bring together brain injury and concussion experts from across the country for the first UT Arlington Concussion Summit March 9-10.

The event features the latest research on the biomechanics of concussions, testing methods, keys to making safe return-to-play decisions, and the long-term effects of sports-related brain injuries. Organizers are inviting local physicians, athletic trainers, coaches, and school administrators as well as parents and other health professionals to attend.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RESCUERS’ EFFORTS WHEN PERFORMING CPR THE LIFE-SAVING WORK

Looks at the quality of the CPR compressions and the neuromuscular fatigue associated with 10 minutes of CPR in young (18-30) and old (40-60 years) females. The secondary focus examines the impact of audio and/or visual feedback, and different support surfaces.

Publications by COEHP Faculty


FOCUS ON RESEARCH | Spring 2011


Years after Ingraham v. Wright.  


Watson Robinson, Academic partnership student, will be training in January to be prepared to report to Afghanistan. Watson is head football coach at Barnett Junior High in Arlington.

The Fort Worth Independent School District has appointed Rodney White to be the inaugural principal for the new Young Men’s Leadership Academy (YMLA). He earned a Master of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies degree from the University of Texas at Arlington.

*** LET US HEAR ABOUT YOU! ***

Help to keep in touch with your fellow classmates by providing the following information and emailing it to Chris Ray (chrisray@uta.edu)

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Please consider making a gift to the College of Education and Health Professions. Private giving allows the College to provide additional support for students, faculty and programs. You are welcome to direct your gift to the program of your choice. Gifts of any size make a difference in our efforts.

To make a gift by credit card, go to www.uta.edu/giving. At the right, click on “Make a gift by credit card.” You will be able to direct your gift to the College of Education and Health Professions and the program of your interest. If you prefer to give by check, make it out to UT Arlington and include COEHP, and program in the memo line. Send it to: Caren Handleman, EdD, Director of Development, College of Education and Health Professions, PO Box 19227, Arlington, Texas 76019.

For any questions about making gifts to support programs, scholarships or other ways to give to the College of Education and Health Professions, please contact Caren at 817-272-7451 or chandleman@uta.edu.

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