

# REVIEW

September 2012 | Annual Summary of Research of Temple University's College of Education

## Wasik and Hindman Garner \$3 Million Grant for Early Childhood Literacy Reading Innovations



Dr. Barbara Wasik



Dr. Annemarie Hindman

**Barbara Wasik, PhD, Professor and PNC Chair in Early Childhood Education, and Assistant Professor Annemarie H. Hindman, PhD,** have been awarded a highly coveted four-year i3 (Investing in Innovation Fund) grant worth \$3 million in federal and matching funds.

The grant will further their pioneering work on improving early childhood literacy among low-income and English language learners by enhancing the training of children's teachers.

The Temple University research proposal was one of just 23 proposals selected from 583 proposals submitted last year. Partners in the research include Johns Hopkins University as well as the Baltimore City Public Schools and the School District of Lancaster, Pa., where the Temple University team ultimately will be working with a combined total of 100 preschool, kindergarten and first-grade teachers and 2,700 children.

College of Health Professions and Social Work professor Carol Hammer, PhD, whose research focuses on promoting bilingual preschoolers' school readiness, is the grant's other principal investigator.

To qualify, the grant required the researchers to raise \$450,000 of the \$3 million total in matching funds in four weeks — a requirement quickly met due to the generous pledges of the Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund, the Lockhart Vaughan Foundation, T. Rowe Price and the Wright Family Fund.

"You really need (continued on page 3)

### Message From the Dean

This is an exciting time in the history of the College of Education at Temple University. The College of Education's success in developing accomplished and highly qualified educational professionals is linked to our strategic vision and investment in the infrastructure of the college.

In April 2012, the College of Education celebrated the opening of the Shimada Resource Center, dedicated to the academic and extracurricular support of our students. The Shimada Resource Center is an example of the commitment of the College of Education to offer the personalized experience of a small college with the resources of a major research university.

Our support for the research mission of the college continues to grow leading to substantial increases in our research productivity. The visibility of the college and its renewed commitment to education issues in the city and in state, regional and national policy also continues to rise.

Since our founding in 1919, the College of Education has been a proud leader in urban education and provider of world class



James Earl Davis, PhD  
Interim Dean

## Faculty Highlights

### Featured Grants

**Julie Booth**, Assistant Professor  
*Improving Students' Skills at Solving Equations Through Better Encoding of Algebraic Concepts*  
U.S. Department of Education  
\$1,048,204

**Jennifer Cromley**, Associate Professor  
*A Multimethod Approach to Understanding Dropout from STEM Gateway Courses*  
National Science Foundation  
\$999,853

**Kristie Newton**, Assistant Professor  
*e=mc<sup>2</sup>: Educating Middle-Grade Teachers for Challenging Contexts*  
U.S. Department of Education  
\$3,014,360

**Elvis Wagner**, Assistant Professor  
*A Validation Study of the use of TOEFL iBT Speaking and Listening Scores for International Teaching Assistants' Placement*  
\$104,000

### Featured Publications

**Joe Folger**, Professor  
*Transformative Mediation: A Sourcebook*

**Janice Laurence**, Associate Professor  
*Educational/Academic Outcomes of Military Children.*

**Aneta Pavlenko**, Professor  
*Thinking and Speaking in Two Languages*

**Erin Rotheram-Fuller**, Assistant Professor  
*Peer Relationships: Challenges and Interventions. Textbook of Autism Spectrum Disorders*

**Joan Shapiro**, Professor  
*Ethical Leadership and Decision*

## Fellowship Awarded to Understand Low-Income Mother's Experiences with Parenting Education

### **Maia Bloomfield Cucchiara**,

Assistant Professor, was selected as one of 20 recipients of the 2012 National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation and Postdoctoral Fellowships. Her project titled "Better Mothers, Smarter Children? Low-Income Mothers' Experiences with Parenting Education" is an ethnographic study of two parenting education programs. The \$55,000 award includes conference travel and extensive mentoring. Since 1986, NAEd has administered the postdoctoral fellowship program with generous funding from the Spencer Foundation. Since the program's inception, more than 700 current and former fellows, including many of today's strongest education researchers, have been awarded the prestigious fellowship. According to NAEd President



Dr. Susan Fuhrman, "the NAEd/Spencer Fellowship Programs not only promote important research, but also help to develop the careers of scholars who demonstrate great promise for making significant contributions to the field of education." More information about the NAEd/Spencer Fellowship Programs is available on NAEd's website at [www.naeducation.org](http://www.naeducation.org).

## Cromley Honored with Presidential Award



**Jennifer Cromley**, Associate Professor was honored by the White House as a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. The award, established by President Clinton in 1996, is coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology

Policy within the Executive Office of the President. Awardees are selected for their pursuit of innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology, and their commitment to community service as demonstrated through scientific leadership, public education or community outreach.

Cromley has also received two National Science Foundation grants to continue her research, which includes three large research projects involving middle school, high school and undergraduate students. These studies examine the effects of modifying middle school science and biology curricula, explore different teaching methods for maintaining student interest at the high school level, and assess why undergraduates continue or opt out of chemistry and biology majors.

## Afterschool STEM Program Funded by NSF

**Carol Brandt**, Assistant Professor of Science Education in Temple University's College of Education is a subcontractor of a \$1.3 Million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to the School of Education at Virginia Tech and the College of Education at University of Kentucky. The funds will be used to implement and evaluate an inquiry-based afterschool program for middle school children in rural Appalachia. Titled "Studio STEM: Engaging Middle School Student in Networked Science and Engineering Projects," the three-year project uses engineering design activities that integrate digital modeling and game development tools along with social networking technologies to engage youth in investigating concepts and skills to integrate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This new project is funded through the Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) Program at NSF. According to

Brandt, "By asking the right questions at the right time, these mentors motivate and reassure girls and boys that they have the ability to solve difficult problems. The undergraduates help youth build the confidence they need to participate in science and engineering." The overall project Principal Investigator is Dr. Michael A. Evans, Associate Professor in the Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies at Virginia Tech.



## Wasik and Hindman Garner \$3 Million Grant

(continued from front page) to acquire the language skills you need for reading between Pre-K and first grade," says Wasik. "If you start failing reading by the middle of first grade, in a very significant way you are already in trouble."

"I believe 85 percent of such cases are due to poor language skills and instruction. If we can make an impact in the early years, we'll really be able to help these kids read and improve their success rates."

Over the past 15 years, Wasik's research team has demonstrated through rigorous randomized control trials that their one-on-one professional development strategies

significantly increase the quality of Head Start teachers' instruction and low-income children's language and preliteracy skills. They call their program Exceptional Coaching for Early Language and Literacy (ExCELL). With ExCELL-E, or ExCELL-Enhanced, the researchers want to reach many more teachers by developing an interactive website, including training videos and embedded assessments.

"We expect," their proposal states, "that the program will result in significant increases in teachers' quality of instruction, as well as significant gains in children's language and literacy skills."

# \$12.6 million

awarded in grants for current research projects

# 4 Research Awards

Jennifer Cromley  
Erin Rotheram-Fuller  
Joan Shapiro  
Christine Woysner

# 37

Peer-Reviewed  
Articles &  
Proceedings

# 6

Books

## White House Acknowledges Temple Jumpstart

**Temple University's Jumpstart** program hosted Naila Bolus, President and Chief Executive Officer of



Jumpstart, one of the largest part-time AmeriCorps programs that is dedicated to expanding educational opportunities for preschool children in low-income communities. Ms. Bolus's experience while visiting the Temple University student service members was featured on the White House blog by the House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation to recognize the impact service members have on young children.

## Adult and Organizational Development Alumna

**Patience Lehrman**, Temple University alumna with a Master's in Adult and Organizational Development and national director of Temple's Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders), was named a White House Champion of Change and awarded the E Pluribus Unum Prize in 2011. Lehrman, pictured right at the White House, competed against 450 applicants and was one of four to receive the award for exceptional immigrant initiates and competed against 450. The \$50,000 award, sponsored by the Migration Policy

Institute, fortified and expanded Project SHINE's initiatives.

She joined President Obama and 12 other Champions of Change on April 26, 2012 in an event highlighting the great accomplishments achieved by alumni since initially being honored as White House Champions of Change. The program was created by the Obama administration to "honor ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things" and has recognized more than 500 people from all 50 states.

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