Partnership Sites

Cherokee County School District
- Alma Elementary
- Gaffney Middle

Chester County School District
- Chester Park COLT
- Chester Park School of Inquiry
- Great Falls Elementary
- Great Falls Middle/High
- Lewisville Elementary

Fairfield County School District
- Fairfield Middle
- Kelly Miller Elementary
- McCrory Liston Elementary

Lancaster County School District
- Buford Middle
- Clinton Elementary
- Indian Land Elementary
- Indian Land High
- Indian Land Middle
- South Middle

York School District One
- Cotton Belt Elementary
- Harold C. Johnson Elementary
- Hunter Street Elementary
- Jefferson Elementary
- York Intermediate
- York Middle

Clover School District

Rock Hill School District
- Dutchman Creek Middle
- Ebenezer Avenue Elementary
- Finley Road Elementary
- India Hook Elementary
- South Pointe High
- Sullivan Middle
- Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies

Fort Mill School District
- Fort Mill Elementary
- Gold Hill Elementary
- Nation Ford High
- Orchard Park Elementary
- Riverview Elementary
- Springfield Middle
- Sugar Creek Elementary

Union County School District
- Buffalo Elementary
- Foster Park Elementary
- Jonesville Elementary/Middle
- Monarch Elementary

Partnership Goals

- Improve student academic achievement
- Improve professional learning for school-university faculty and student candidates
- Strengthen the pre-baccalaureate preparation of teacher candidates
- Increase support for new teachers

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The NetSCOPE project is funded by the US DOE Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Award CFDA 84.336S.
Moving Forward: Rex Institute to Shepherd Partnership Network

This fall, the Winthrop University-School Partnership Network will find its new home in the Jim and Sue Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnerships. The Rex Institute was actually established in 2011 as the sustaining entity for the collaborative efforts born from our NetSCOPE Teacher Quality Partnership Grant. Although we hope you will not notice any interruption in service or communication, you will see a new website and hopefully find increased access to information and materials about many partnership aspects including professional learning, teacher education curriculum, and special projects. The Rex Institute faculty and staff look forward to continued prosperity with you all!

Lisa Johnson
Executive Director, The Rex Institute
Lisa is a professor and associate dean in the Richard W. Riley College of Education. She is a National Board Certified teacher with a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. As executive director of the Rex Institute, Lisa facilitates the multiple programs and initiatives aimed at establishing and maintaining effective partnerships and clinical programs.

David Beiter
Professional Learning Coordinator

Foster Hays
Research Assistant

Lisa Hudson-Lucas
Mentoring and Induction Specialist

Caroline Grant
Director
Office of Field and Clinical Experiences
Carolyn facilitates the field and clinical aspects of Winthrop’s teacher education program. She supports host and mentor teachers, as well as university supervisors and teacher candidates.

Rachel Glover
Administrative Specialist, The Rex Institute
Rachel maintains the Rex Institute and Core Curriculum websites as well as manages and provides technical support for the LiveText mentor database and Field Experience Module.

Paul Horne
Partnership Network Coordinator
The Rex Institute
Paul serves as the liaison between the university, partnership districts, and school staffs. He visits the schools to support teacher candidates and mentor teachers while collaborating with school administrators and liaisons. He also facilitates the technology initiatives associated with the network.

Dia Hablutzel
Placement Coordinator
Office of Field and Clinical Experiences
Dia coordinates school placements for teacher education candidates working with university faculty and schools in the Partnership network to ensure that candidates are eligible for various experiences and matched with appropriate teachers.

Patty Sparks
ProTeam and Teacher Cadet
Winthrop University College Coordinator
Winthrop University College Coordinator
It will be Patty’s responsibility to work with our high school partners to provide them with a representative at Winthrop University and to give them and their students a glimpse of all that Winthrop has to offer as they consider the next step in their education.

Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies’ “Math Moles” spent their last days of the school year in 2014 investigating how to make their classroom better by moving it into the 21st century. After thoroughly researching new innovations that could be implemented in a modern school environment, the eight fifth-graders presented their findings on a “21st Century Classroom” to 30 Rock Hill school board members and district administrators. The students shared and demonstrated the many creative products that would update the classroom for Generation Z. Tellingly, potential names for this new generation are iGeneration, the Google Generation, the Swipe Generation, and Digital Natives. Accustomed to an ever-more technology-driven culture, these kids recognize that schools need to progress with the times and have found ways to do so.

In addition to adding practical innovations like storage on wheels and lightweight movable desks, the young presenters also recommend such advances as using “smart” tables that allow for active learning with small-group collaboration capabilities and interactive, engaging activities. According to one student, Anna Black, “Our whole classroom was designed to be flexible and mobile.” This is evident in the picture below, with Rock Hill School District Director of Facilities Bryan Vaughan demonstrating the use of a stability ball chair advocated by the students. Lastly, the fifth-grade team shared their ideal classroom design with plexiglass walls and bright colors to make it more appealing to a youthful aesthetic.

Following their demonstration, the students answered questions about the innovations and how they would be utilized in the classroom before making their final request to the administrators to implement these changes in district schools. As one student, Seth Lynch, said, “We need you to help us. So help us find new routes.” They received a favorable response, with Rock Hill School District Superintendent Kelly Pew replying, “I like the idea that you’re dreaming big. You’re pretty convincing.” Also in favor of their “21st Century Classroom” is the Rock Hill School District’s associate superintendent for administrative services, Tony Cox. Claiming that the district has already been investigating some of the ideas presented by the student group, Cox has also determined that the resourceful fifth-graders introduced new concepts that the district can use as they consider future changes for the upcoming tech-savvy generations. Way to go, SPCAS Math Moles!
The Herald’s Favorite Teacher Contest

Five teachers from Winthrop University-School Partnership Network Partner Schools were nominated and selected for The Herald's 2014 Favorite Teacher Awards. This contest was open to any student in York, Lancaster, and Chester counties who wanted to nominate his/her favorite teacher from the 2013-14 school year. Nomination essays were recorded in the child’s own words and submitted this spring to be reviewed by a panel of Herald employees. Sixteen teachers were then selected, receiving $100 to use in their classrooms as well as weekly deliveries of The Herald during the fall 2014 semester along with a Newspapers-in-Education curriculum guide. The winning teachers were also recognized in The Herald's special back-to-school “Class” section on July 30, 2014.

Fort Mill School District Elementary School Favorite Teacher Award
Jessy Belue, Riverview Elementary School
Nominated by Trinity, First Grade

Mrs. Belue is my favorite teacher! She is the best teacher because she is fun and we have fun at school! She reads us lots of books and we get to do Book n’ Cooks too (for Book n’ Cooks we make snacks that go along with a story). Our field trips are also a lot of fun and (a pretend) Abraham Lincoln even came to our class to talk to us! I am excited for our gem mining next! Mrs. Belue is good with technology and I love computers. She doesn’t move people onto the bad colors very often! She gives them a chance! We do other fun things like interviewing our friends and counting the tallys to see what people like the best. I like that. We have made many power point presentations and the parents come in to our class to listen to some of them. I have learned a lot in 1st grade and I have had a lot of fun! Mrs. Belue is the best teacher!!!!!!!!!!

Fort Mill School District High School Favorite Teacher Award
Tracy Sims, Nation Ford High School
Nominated by Brittany, Twelfth Grade

Nelson Mandela said that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” One teacher that I believe has taken the power of education to its fullest potential is Mrs. Tracy Sims, my Spanish teacher. Mrs. Sims has a unique, caring personality, and she respects and treats her students like people and does not talk down to them. She has created a welcoming classroom, where you can go and be yourself. She is very optimistic, encouraging and always smiling. Her students do not sit in a chair for the entire class, either. Mrs. Sims is very creative with her lesson plans and will do everything to make sure her students understand the lesson she is trying to convey. For example, she is the only teacher I know who has a jingle to remember everything, and trust me, they work! I spoke with Mr. Jose Figuero, Spanish teacher at Nation Ford, and he said that one quality of Mrs. Sims that stands out to him is her passion for the classroom. He stated that she is “a great coworker. She is very reliable and super positive,” and ended with the statement “I just love Mrs. Sims!” Well, I do too in the aspect of her passion and dedication to not only teaching her students enough to get by, but by building the comprehension and confidence in her students so they are able to speak the Spanish language and use it for the rest of their lives.

2014 Favorite Teacher Award Winners

Lancaster County School District Middle School Favorite Teacher Award
Mary Beth Mize, Buford Middle School
Nominated by Devin, Seventh Grade

Have you ever had a teacher who is so awesome that she makes doing homework fun? I never used to do my homework until I came to Mary Beth Mize’s class at Buford Middle School. Ms. Mize has changed my life by caring about me and helping me learn. I never cared about my homework or learning, but Ms. Mize makes me work harder and believes in me. Ms. Mize has made me a better person by being cool with me and being fun. At my old school, I had a bad attitude and was negative all the time. But in Ms. Mize’s class, I’m a leader and a good influence to my classmates now. I used to not care and I made bad decisions because I used to think nobody cared about me. Ms. Mize helps me with my reading, math and homework at school. She is my favorite teacher because she makes me feel special, and feeling special is the greatest feeling in the world.

York School District Elementary School Favorite Teacher Award
Eileen Palmer, Cotton Belt Elementary School
Nominated by Xavier, Kindergarten

My teacher deserves this award because she is pretty. She is so very nice. She loves being my teacher. She is lucky to have me. She really likes me too. My teacher takes time to help me read and write. My teacher is very patient with all my classmates. I love my teacher and she loves me too. My teacher is a special teacher because she plays with us and helps us out. All my older brothers and sisters had the same kindergarten teacher and they all loved her too. She teaches us how to cook on Friday’s. We have so much fun all together. We learn about gardening and planting plants and how they grow. We are growing our own little garden. My teacher is a super teacher. She does many things with our class. I love my teacher because she is special. She is very tall but I still love her. She is very funny.

York School District Middle School Favorite Teacher Award
Angela Covington, York Middle School
Nominated by Jordan, Seventh Grade

My favorite teacher in the seventh grade at York Middle School is a math teacher named Mrs. Covington. This specific math teacher has taught me delightful things. In my eyes, Mrs. Covington has a simple way to teach math. Ever since I started her class, my grades have risen. I always thought math was obnoxious and not worth anyone’s time. Mrs. Covington took the time to help me and others learn new ways to do math. I learned that you DO need math. Everything you do is mathematical. Without math no one would be able to do half the things we do today, and that’s what Mrs. Covington taught me. Mrs. Covington is the most ironic teacher that you couldn’t ever imagine, and her humorous personality is astonishing. When Mrs. Covington explains math to me and other students, she gives off explanations of how it will help us in life. The greatest thing of all about her is if you have a question about a math problem she will help you and answer your question immediately. I needed a lot of help, but with Mrs. Covington’s simple ways to learn math I am guaranteed to pass my math class. I believe that Mrs. Covington is the most amazing teacher any student could have.
2014 Mentor Teacher Symposium Dinner

At 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2014, Winthrop University-School Partnership mentor teachers as well as Winthrop University supervisors and Partnership Network staff gathered for the 2014 Mentor Teacher Symposium Dinner. Meeting at Winthrop University’s McBryde Hall, the educators mingled while discussing feedback on the implementation of co-teaching in the classroom (which components worked well for them, what challenges they faced, how they achieved shared responsibility while co-teaching with their intern, and how they collected/analyzed student achievement data in relation to co-teaching). Guests then moved to Turtle Dining Room to enjoy dinner together, appreciating this time to collaborate and socialize with their peers as well as celebrate their contributions to teacher education. As dinner came to a close, Lisa Hudson-Lucas, NetSCOPE Mentoring and Induction Specialist, commenced the ceremony in recognition of our 2014 Outstanding Mentor Teachers. Receiving many impressive nominations this year, five mentor teachers were selected to be honored for their achievements as collaborators, motivators, and role models and for their impact on their teacher candidates. After each of the outstanding mentor teachers was announced by our Clinical Coaches, the nominating supervisor or teacher candidate read their nomination (sometimes in tears for the support and encouragement given and sometimes with laughs over blunders made and obstacles hurdled). Taking the time to honor and appreciate the hard work and dedication of our mentor teachers and the obstacles hurdled). Taking the time to honor and appreciate the hard work and dedication of our mentor teachers and the obstacles hurdled). Taking the time to honor and appreciate the hard work and dedication of our mentor teachers and the obstacles hurdles, the evening was another memorable event of collaboration and camaraderie for our Partnership, and we look forward to another year together!

2014 Outstanding Mentor Teacher Awards

Collaborative Award
Katie Jenkinson and Jessica Cooper, Rock Hill High School
Nominated by Amy Gerald, Winthrop University Supervisor
This mentor teacher demonstrates the courage it takes to step out of his/her comfort zone taking on the role of mentor and learner. He/she is someone who practices the various co-teaching models with flexibility and purposefully co-plans and reflects alongside the candidate. Through receptivity to new ideas, the mentor teacher builds a positive relationship with the candidate and communicates openly and honestly. Furthermore, this mentor not only allows, but also encourages the candidate to take risks and try new, innovative practices. Overall, this mentor teacher communicates an openness and willingness to receive the candidate into his/her classroom as a colleague.

Motivator Award
Nancy Jolly-Smith, Great Falls Elementary School
Nominated by Sarah Patneaude, Winthrop University Teacher Candidate
This mentor teacher demonstrates the care and enthusiasm it takes to get to know the teacher candidate in order to propel the candidate forward past any obstacles. He/she looks for the best in every situation, consistently exhibiting positivity, empowering the candidate to accomplish tasks and goals, and encouraging the candidate to strive for success. Playing a key role in the candidate’s educational experience, this mentor provides support for the candidate to grow as an individual through increasing confidence and competence in his/her content and shows the intern what he/she is capable of becoming and achieving. Overall, this mentor teacher is someone who motivates the candidate to work harder and become a better teacher.

Role Model Award
Sandra Queen, Northwestern High School
Nominated by Bethany Dickey, Winthrop University Teacher Candidate
This mentor teacher demonstrates the professionalism required in all aspects of teaching from knowing his/her students and their needs to communicating with students, parents, peers, and the community. A role model does the right things in the right way, consistently striving to be the best teacher he/she can be. The role model is a positive influence, expecting the best of him/herself in order to encourage the best from others. He/she is someone who provides positive models for classroom management, lesson planning, team collaboration, and other aspects of teaching. Overall, this mentor teacher is someone who models the epitome of high quality teaching.

All Around Mentor Award
Melissa Shaffer, Finley Road Elementary School
Nominated by Jennifer Colvin, Winthrop University Teacher Candidate
Nominated in all three categories (Collaborator, Motivator, and Role Model), a special award was created to recognize Ms. Melissa Shaffer’s exceptional work as a mentor teacher. In Jennifer Colvin’s words, “I have learned so much from her, and I feel that I am ready to be a teacher because of what she has taught me. I am more confident and knowledgeable because of her modeling high quality teaching. She always pushes herself and me to be the best that we can be and to never stop learning, changing, and growing. She has always told me, ‘As teachers, we are life long learners. It is our responsibility to learn so that we can be a teacher because of what she has taught me. I am more confident and knowledgeable because of her modeling high quality teaching. She always pushes herself and me to be the best that we can be and to never stop learning, changing, and growing. She has always told me, ‘As teachers, we are life long learners. It is our responsibility to learn so that we can teach.’ I will always reflect back to those words throughout my life and my career.”
Partnership Projects

Hunter Street Elementary School Science Extravaganza

After analyzing PASS Science data, the faculty at Hunter Street Elementary School realized there was a need to improve student performance in science, particularly in the area of inquiry. While the school met 100% of the objectives in every other area, science only met 52 percent. In order to remedy this deficiency, third and fourth grade teachers and interns began professional development endeavors in 2012-13 to increase science inquiry in the classroom. In 2012-13 and 2013-14, teachers worked with the Winthrop University-School Partnership Network to highlight science and engage students in more active, hands-on learning. As a result, improvements were apparent in the 2013 PASS Science test, with 78 percent of the objectives met. Looking to see even more gains the next year, third and fourth grade classes engaged in more science inquiry, with each teacher focusing on a different strand of the South Carolina Science Standards. Furthermore, each fourth grade class was given the opportunity to conduct a science investigation at Winthrop University, collecting specimens from the Winthrop Lake and visiting Winthrop’s Dalton Hall science lab to view their discoveries.

After a year of hard work and lots of fun, students ended the year with the Science Extravaganza, a science showcase where students could demonstrate and teach parents and community members what they learned that year. With each class divided into small groups, they each had planned hands-on activities to illustrate the science phenomena they researched as well as videos and PowerPoint presentations they prepared as they studied their assigned topic. The Science Extravaganza took place on two separate days, a third grade event on the morning of May 29 and a fourth grade event on June 2.

Visiting the third graders during their Science Extravaganza, you can feel the excitement from the kids eager to share their projects and new-found expertise. Starting in the cafeteria with a brief introduction, groups of visitors were guided by a student from classroom to classroom where they could explore the various stations in each room. In one classroom, the kids were studying changes of state. Each station would give a mini-lesson explaining the definitions of terms before leading their audience in a game. While some groups provided matching games, whether actual objects or pictures designated to the correctly marked poster, another station had a song and dance ready to teach the water cycle and another had an experiment for their visitors to see if a hershey kiss would melt in an open or closed hand. Moving to the second classroom, the students were studying fossils and had pictures and information ready as an introduction, a table set for participants to dig and try to find their own fossil, as well as displays of their work creating their own fossils out of plaster and playdoh. Coming to the last classroom, the children were ready to teach what they learned about land forms. The first station sang a song introducing all the types of land forms while other stations had guests match cards with pictures and definitions, randomly pick a card out of a can with terms like peninsula or canyon to create out of playdoh, or determine the difference between pictures of two different land forms. Ending with a survey and a piece of candy to say “thank you,” the event came to a close with the kids excited about learning and proud to share their hard work. As Winthrop Faculty in Residence at Hunter Street Elementary, Linda Pickett, said, “The excitement and engagement of students and teachers is evident, and hearing students comment ‘I LOVE science!’ has been rewarding.” Way to go HSES!
Fifth Annual Partnership Conference for Educational Renewal

On Wednesday, June 11, 2014, the Winthrop University-School Partnership Network conducted another successful summer conference with the Fifth Annual Partnership Conference for Educational Renewal. Preceding the main event, NetSCOPE hosted two pre-conference workshops on Tuesday, June 10, a morning writing workshop and an afternoon co-teaching workshop. The morning workshop started with a group session at Winthrop University’s Owens Hall led by Rebecca Harper, assistant professor of teacher education at Georgia Regents University, before participants divided into grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) for ideas and resources tailored more specifically to their area. After a break for lunch, participants gathered once more in Owens Hall for a co-teaching training led by NetSCOPE Mentoring and Induction Specialist Lisa Hudson-Lucas and Director of the Office of Field and Clinical Experiences Carolyn Grant.

With a successful turnout at both workshops, it is not surprising that more than 200 educators from within the Partnership Network made an appearance the morning of the conference. Starting the morning with breakfast and a brief address from Keynote Speaker Jamie Comstock Williamson, attendees spent the day exploring a range of concurrent sessions from an offering of 42 led by their colleagues throughout the university and schools in the Partnership Network.

With a theme of “Reach!,” the sessions at this year’s conference highlighted collaboration and innovation by teachers, faculty, administrators, and teacher candidates, encouraging educators in the Partnership to “Reach” all students, “Reach” our full potential for growth, and “Reach” high expectations. Concurrent sessions ranged from introducing innovative technology into the classroom with “Classroom Technology that You Need to Know About Right Now” and “Reaching All Learners through Interactive Notebooks” to discussing mentoring roles and methods with “Embracing Junior Faculty Members,” “To Host or Not To Host,” and “They Gave Me An Intern…Now What?” New ideas were introduced with sessions on mindmapping, using book trailers to engage readers, investigating scientific models, and learning good strategies for Common Core math. Participants also delved into sessions on co-teaching, STEM, RtI, Project-Based Learning, classroom climate, argumentative writing, edTPA, writing reports, and co-planning and co-assessing. Teachers learned new strategies to work with struggling readers and at-risk learners, how to engage their students in the classroom, and how to adapt their classroom for the 21st century.

Just a sample of all the conference had to offer, we can only hope that more partners come forward to share their innovative ideas, their experience and expertise, and their resources in next year’s conference. See you then!
Calendar of Events

August
Aug. 25: Winthrop University Classes Begin

September
Sept. 1: Labor Day Holiday, Winthrop Offices Closed
Sept. 4: Partnership Advisory Council Meeting
Sept. 26: Network Management Team Meeting

October
Oct. 9: Partnership Advisory Council Meeting
Oct. 17-20: Winthrop University Fall Break

November
Nov. 10-12: Foundations in Mentoring Training
Nov. 14: Network Management Team Meeting
Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday, Winthrop Offices Closed

December
Dec. 4: Partnership Advisory Council Meeting
Dec. 8: Winthrop University Classes End
Dec. 20: Winthrop University Commencement
Dec. 24-31: Holiday Break, Winthrop Offices Closed

January
Jan. 2: Holiday Break, Winthrop Offices Closed

For location and participant information, visit:
www2.winthrop.edu/rex/Upcoming_dates.htm

Professional Learning Opportunities

Winthrop University’s NetSCOPE grant established the Partnership Network to promote collaborative professional learning hosted by university and school faculty. The learning opportunities are open to all educators in the nine partner districts as well as university faculty and staff. Schools do not have to be a Professional Development School or Partner School to participate.

Please visit the PLO website, www2.winthrop.edu/rex/professional_learning.htm, to view professional development offerings, explore possible opportunities schools might consider hosting, and find directions for submitting requests for specific professional learning topics.

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Time is really the only capital that any human being has, and the only thing he can’t afford to lose.
—Thomas Edison