



First Newsletter of 2020!

Welcome to the fifth College of Education (COE) newsletter, first launched in June 2019 to engage our college community! Look for it twice a term and once in the summer. Send your COE stories to Media Relations Specialist Jillian Daley at jillian@pdx.edu.

Dean's Message: A Commitment to Inclusion

When the College of Education (COE) announced inclusive excellence as one of our key imperatives in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, we meant to take action—and we have.

Objectives in the Strategic Plan include recruitment and retention of diverse students and faculty. Initiatives to achieve that include promoting equity and inclusion research that serves historically marginalized communities and critically examining pedagogy to focus on equity and inclusion.

We are fulfilling those goals with immediacy. The COE, with support from the PSU leadership, is making a commitment to bring on seven to eight new students each year to the Portland Teachers Program, which recruits and retains teachers of color. Last week, professors including Julie Esparza Brown, Ph.D., and Amanda Sanford, Ph.D., hosted the Literacy Interventions for English Learners Research Colloquium.

Also last week, we offered a one-day training on how educators can be more culturally responsive in their teachings, a presentation led by Muhammad Khalifa, Ph.D., the Robert Beck Endowed Professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. In January, we hosted professional development sessions for students, staff, and faculty led by Chezare Warren, Ph.D., a nationally known researcher in the area of urban education and culturally responsive pedagogy.

These are the kinds of events and programs we will continue to see in the COE as our commitment to our value of inclusion remains unwavering.

—Dean Marvin Lynn



Dean Marvin Lynn says he is committed to PTP. Photo courtesy of PSU files



From left to right: Emilie Walker and Laurel Monroy were honored during a celebration for Portland Teachers Program graduates May 31, 2019, at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus. Photo by Jillian Daley

[more](#)

COE Investing in Portland Teachers Program

Portland State University College of Education (COE) Dean Marvin Lynn announced this week that the PSU Office of Academic Affairs and the COE mutually pledge to commit significant resources to support seven to eight new students per year to join the Portland Teachers Program (PTP).

PTP is a teacher prep program that has successfully recruited and prepared educators of color to teach in Portland and Beaverton for more than 30 years. Lynn said that the COE plans to continue to support PTP, despite PSU's ongoing fiscal challenges.

"PTP represents a powerful success story, and it's one we're going to keep on telling for a long, long time," Dean Marvin Lynn said. [Read](#)



For info on one of the COE's lauded online education programs, Master in Early Childhood, enjoy a [program information session](#) by faculty members Ingrid Anderson and John Nimmo, and admissions advisor Elizabeth Snyder. Photo courtesy of PSU files

COE's U.S. News Ranking Increases Significantly

Portland State University's College of Education (COE) recently advanced 20 places in its ranking for the U.S. News Best Online Graduate Education Programs—specifically, master's degrees.

"We are pleased, but not altogether surprised, that the U.S. News ranking of the PSU College of Education (COE) has increased significantly," COE Dean Marvin Lynn said. "The COE provides an excellent—and affordable—academic option for future teachers and leaders as the largest and most diverse College of Education in the entire State of Oregon."

U.S. News announced that the COE had moved from 89th out of 299 in the category in 2019 to tie for 69th out of 298 this year. The ranking methodology rates performance in areas including engagement with instructors and classmates, varied options for distance learning services and technology, student excellence, and faculty credentials. The results of a survey of experts are also incorporated. [Read more](#)

An Important Conversation

Part I: Race and Pedagogy at PSU: At a professional development session in January, [College of Education](#) (COE) faculty analyzed the recurring theme of a "nice white lady" teaching and rescuing students of color.

The group watched a *MADtv* skit parodying an inner-city school with a diverse student body in which a narrator proclaims: "Only one thing will make these kids learn: a nice white lady." [Read more](#)

Part II: Future Teachers Share Their Perspectives on Justice: One of the first things Chezare Warren, Ph.D., asked the group of Portland State College of Education (COE) students at a January professional development session was: "What is justice and when do we know we have achieved it?"



Chezare Warren, Ph.D., a nationally known researcher in the area of urban education and culturally responsive pedagogy provided professional development sessions in the COE. Photo by Jillian Daley

Student Ken Harris said justice happens "when a moral or ethical wrong has been made right." [Read more](#)



A collaboration of O&M with community partners results in a tour of Portland International Airport. Photo courtesy of PSU files

Mobility Matters Will Spotlight Youth Leadership

Mobility Matters promises to be a little different in 2020, featuring a youth focus in its partnerships and outreach.

Mobility Matters, Portland State University's annual summit on transportation accessibility, is slated for Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at the Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway. The event always seeks to highlight advances in technology and new approaches for transportation systems that benefit people with disabilities.

But this time, lead organizer Amy Parker, an assistant professor in the PSU College of Education (COE), is shifting the focus to spotlight youth leaders, involving the millennial-led DeafBlind Citizens in Action (DBCA) as partners and speakers. [Read more](#)

In Other News

Meet 'Your Mentor Teacher'

The Portland State University College of Education (COE) has debuted a new contributor to the COE Blog: alumnus Brett Bigham. [Read more](#)

Professor Publishes Book Guiding Educators on Teaching English Language Learners

To help English learners, Julie Esparza Brown published her first book in May 2019, "Supporting English Learners in the Classroom: Best Practices for Distinguishing Language Acquisition from Learning Disabilities" (Hass & Brown, 2019) published by Teachers College Press. [Read more](#)

COE Professors Presenting Thursday at Research Colloquium

A presentation of academic research to improve reading and language outcomes for English learners is slated for this Thursday at Portland State University. [Read more](#)

Doctoral Student Speaks Up About Anti-Bias Education

Doctoral student and [Portland State College of Education \(COE\)](#) instructor [Soobin Oh](#) advocated for incorporating anti-bias in early childhood education during a podcast last week. [Read more](#)

Professor Chris Borgmeier Presents on International Stage

Professor Chris Borgmeier, Ph.D., whose research interests focus on School-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (SW-PBIS), was one of four keynote speakers at the inaugural Response to Intervention (RtI) for International Schools Summit in Singapore in October. [Read more](#)

Where They Are Now: Spotlight on Danielle Swartz-Koufman

Danielle Swartz-Koufman earned a Master of [Educational Leadership and Policy \(ELP\)](#) from Portland State's College of Education (COE) just four years ago, and she is already making a splash with her academic skills. [Read more](#)

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College of Education PO Box 751
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