ERC Awarded Grant to Evaluate NSF-Funded TxLIMIT Project

The Education Research Center at Texas A&M University (ERC at TAMU) is pleased to announce that it has received a grant to conduct an external summative evaluation of the National Science Foundation-funded project, Texas Leadership Initiative: Mathematics Instruction Transformed (TxLIMIT) project. Jackie Stillisano and Hersh Waxman will be the co-principal investigators for the study. Additional ERC researchers involved include Kim Wright, Kayla Rollins, and Luke Lyons.

The TxLIMIT project was designed as a partnership among Stephen F. Austin State University's College of Science and Mathematics and College of Education, Region VII Education Service Center, and five East Texas Independent School Districts. Funded through NSF’s Robert Noyce Master Teaching Fellowship Program, the project focuses on supporting Master Teaching Fellows in mathematics within high-need districts across East Texas. The TxLIMIT Fellows are provided with coherent, rigorous mathematics content learning opportunities, as well as with leadership and mentorship training to prepare them to lead and transform schools in their districts.

The evaluation team will use a mixed-methods design to investigate the impact of TxLIMIT on participants’ (a) content knowledge, pedagogical content knowledge, and instructional practice; and (b) leadership knowledge, ability, and practice. Influence of the Fellows’ activities on their students’ mathematics learning and growth and on institutional changes in mathematics programs and curricula will also be examined.

For additional information, please contact Jackie Stillisano at jstillisano@tamu.edu or Hersh Waxman at hwaxman@tamu.edu.

ERC Presents Third Seminar for 2014-15

The ERC held the third event in its 2014-15 seminar series on March 24, 2015. Jean Madsen and Mario Torres, Associate Professors of Educational Administration and Human Resource Development, presented ‘An Exploratory Study of Inclusion’ in Two Urban School Districts: A Study Funded by the Kellogg Foundation.” The presentation included the work of colleagues Jessica Yue, an instructional assistant professor in Educational Psychology, and Educational Administration doctoral students Lixia Qin and Elsa Villareal.

Madsen and Torres’s study seeks to go beyond more traditional questions regarding schools’ legal Compliance with regulations related to inclusivity. Researchers are using the Kellogg Inclusivity Scale to measure the perceptions of various K-12 school stakeholders, including administrators, teachers, and parents, regarding the extent to which schools are demonstrating inclusivity of different groups. Study authors hope the project’s data collection will lead to targeted interventions with school districts.

ERC Researchers Receive Awards

Susana Franco-Fuenmayor, ERC Assistant Research Scientist, received the Second Language Research SIG Distinguished Dissertation Award at the 2015 annual conference of the American Educational Research Association. Dr. Yolanda Padrón was chair of Franco-Fuenmayor’s dissertation committee and Hersh Waxman was a committee member.

Nancy Weber, ERC Graduate Research Assistant, was recognized as a 2015 distinguished honor graduate at the College of Education and Human Development Honor Reception held on May 15th. Weber was one of three recipients in the scholarship track for Ph.D. students, and the only recipient from the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture.

Recent ERC Publications


ERC Hosts Invited Data Workshop

As part of the Recruiting, Preparing, and Retaining Excellent Teachers for High-Need Schools (RPRET) project, Dr. Emiel Owens, Professor of Educational Administration at Texas Southern University, presented a second invited NCES data workshop in the ERC on April 30, 2015. TLAC doctoral students Amy Ging, Luke Lyons, Matt Etchells, Kenneth Fleming, Jenn Whitefield, Antonia Ketsetzi, and Nancy Weber attended the seminar and worked on several research studies focusing on teacher retention issues using the National School and Staffing Survey.

ERC Presents Final Seminar for 2014-15

The ERC held the fourth and final event in its 2014-15 seminar series on April 22, 2015. Lori L. Taylor, associate professor in the Bush School of Government and Public Service and director of the Robert A. Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics, and Public Policy, presented “Does Incentive Pay Impact Teacher Turnover? Evidence from Tennessee.” Taylor’s presentation provided an overview of preliminary results from the first year of a 3-year statewide study of the impact of incentive pay on teacher turnover rates. Tennessee received funds under both Race to the Top and Teacher Incentive Fund initiatives to develop and implement performance-based pay for teachers. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, all teachers in the state received a value-added score tied to student performance. The study looked at teacher characteristics and compensation for teachers in the 14 districts that implemented a performance-based pay program. Preliminary findings indicate that people new to an individual school are less likely to receive an incentive payout, while teachers in tested subjects and grades are more likely to receive incentive payouts and more likely to receive larger payouts.

Recent ERC Presentations


Contact Us: 112 Harrington Tower, College Station, TX 77843-4232
http://erc.cehd.tamu.edu