

Education Research as a Catalyst for Improving Policy and Practice



ERC Staff

Hersh Waxman
Director

Jacqueline Stillisano
Co-Director

Kayla Rollins
Coordinator of Teacher Education Research

Susana Franco-Fuenmayor
Assistant Research Scientist

Kim Wright
Research Associate

Anna Witt Boriack
Senior Research Associate

Kenneth Fleming
Graduate Research Assistant

Luke Lyons
Graduate Research Assistant

Nancy Weber
Graduate Research Assistant

Elba Barahona
Graduate Research Intern

Matthew Etchells
Graduate Research Intern

Ethan Vieira
Undergraduate Student Research Assistant

Program Area Leaders

Yolanda Padrón
Educator Preparation

Dennie Smith
Curriculum & Instruction

Lori Taylor
School Finance, Resources, & Facilities

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.

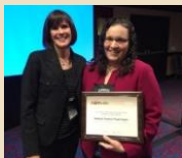
ERC Presents Third Seminar for 2014-15



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 Resource 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

- Taylor L. L. (2015). When equal is not equitable: Adjusting for geographic differences in education costs. *The Takeaway*, 6(4). Retrieved from <http://bush.tamu.edu/mosbacher/takeaway/V6-4%20Texas%20CEI%20Takeaway.pdf>
- Waxman, H. C., Weber, N. D., Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E., & Rollins, K. B. (2015). Research-based approaches for identifying and assessing effective teaching practices: Challenges, new directions, and policy implications. In Y. Li & J. Hammer (Eds.), *Teaching at work* (pp. 9-27). Rotterdam, The Netherlands: Sense Publishers.
- Weber, N. D., & Waxman, H. C. (2015). The impact of classroom technology availability on novice teacher and student use. In Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference 2015 (pp. 3569-3575). Chesapeake, VA: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).
- Weber, N. D., & Waxman, H. C. (2015). Changes in first-year teachers' self-efficacy and confidence for integrating technology into classroom instruction. In Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference 2015 (pp. 3562-3568). Chesapeake, VA: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).
- Weber, N. D., Waxman, H. C., & Fleming, K. J. (2015). With its high teacher cost, is Teach for America a viable option for schools? *The Conversation*. Retrieved from https://theconversation.com/with-its-high-teacher-cost-is-teach-for-america-a-viable-option-for-schools-37695#comment_636027

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 Whitfield, Antonia Ketssetzi, 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

- Boriack, A. W., Stillisano, J. R., Waxman, H. C., & Rollins, K. B. (2015, February). *Analysis of Reasoning Mind 2013-14 secondary data*. Poster presented at the GenieCon conference, Houston, TX.
- Etchells, M. J. (2015, April). *Qualitative reflections on formal and informal learning experiences of international students at a large international school in the Middle East from 1985-2013*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Curriculum History, Chicago, IL.
- Fleming, K. J. (2015, February). *Evidence of curriculum theory in exhibit design: A systematic literature review*. Paper presented at the Informal Science Education Association Annual Conference, Van, TX.
- Fleming, K. J., Etchells, M. J., Sonnenburg, S. L., Jabbari, N., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, February). *A content analysis of current topics and issues in teacher education*. Paper presented at the Southwest Educational Research Association annual conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Fleming, K. J., Lyons, L. C., Etchells, M. J., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, February). *Evidence of leadership as a high quality indicator for teacher certification program evaluation*. Paper presented at the Southwest Educational Research Association annual conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E., Rollins, K. B., Widdison, Y. C., Barahona, E., Padrón, Y. N., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, April). *Exploring the effectiveness of summer book clubs to improve children's reading motivation*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E., Rollins, K. B., Widdison, Y. C., Barahona, E., Padrón, Y. N., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, April). *Investigating a one-on-one tutoring program's impact on struggling readers' attitudes about reading and school*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Padrón, Y. N., Barahona, E., Rollins, K. B., Franco-Fuenmayor, S., Widdison, Y. C., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, April). *Evaluating a community-based parent involvement program for Hispanic parents*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Rollins, K. B., Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E., Waxman, H. C., Padrón, Y. N., Boriack, A. W., Callander, N., & Alford, B. L. (2015, April). *Evaluating the education initiative of an urban city community collaborative*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Rollins, K. B., Alford, B. L., Brown, D. B., Waxman, H. C., & Stillisano, J. R. (2015, April). *Evaluating the effectiveness of a statewide professional development collaborative for teacher educators on the implementation of college and career readiness standards*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Stillisano, J. R., Wright, K. B., Brown, D. B., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, April). *Evaluating the effectiveness of a program designed to increase academic readiness for post-secondary education*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Stillisano, J. R., Wright, K. B., Rollins, K. R., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, February). *Using qualitative methods to examine a secondary/postsecondary program to enhance academic readiness for college*. Paper presented at the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research annual conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Taylor L. L., & Springer, M. (2015, February). *Does incentive pay impact teacher turnover? Evidence from Tennessee*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Washington D.C.
- Waxman, H. C., Padrón, Y. N., & Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E. (2015, May). *Evaluating teachers and improving learning: Alternative value-added assessments*. Presentation to the Texas A&M College of Education, Dean's Development Council.
- Weber, N. D. (2015, April). *Examining technology integration in secondary schools through systematic classroom observations*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Weber, N. D., Hodges, T. S., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, April). *Examining pre-service teachers' self-efficacy and perceived commitment to the teaching field*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Weber, N. D., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, March). *Changes in first-year teachers' self-efficacy and confidence for integrating technology into classroom instruction*. Paper presented at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education international conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Weber N. D., & Waxman, H. C. (2015, March). *The impact of classroom technology availability on novice teacher and student use*. Paper presented at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education international conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Weber, N. D., Waxman, H. C., Rollins, K. B., & Kelly, L. J. (2015, February). *Changes in first-year teachers self-efficacy for classroom instruction*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Southwest Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Weber, N. D., Waxman, H. C., Rollins, K. B., Brown, D. B., & Kelly, L. J. (2015, April). *Changes in first-year intern teachers' self-efficacy and confidence in teaching*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Wright, K. B., Kandel-Cisco, B., Hodges, T. S., Boriack, A. W., Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E., Waxman, H. C., & Stillisano, J. R. (2015, April). *Developing and assessing student collaboration in K-12 students: A best evidence synthesis*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.