

## Education Research as a Catalyst for Improving Policy and Practice



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### Program Area Leaders

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### Principal Investigators and Other Researchers

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### Education Research Center Awarded Grant to Evaluate NSF-Funded ETEAMS Project

The Education Research Center at Texas A&M University (ERC at TAMU) is pleased to announce that it has received a sub-award of \$150,000 to conduct an external evaluation of the National Science Foundation-funded project, *Elementary Teachers Engaged in Authentic Math and Science (ETEAMS) Partnership*. Jackie Stillisano and Hersh Waxman will be the Co-Principal Investigators for the study. Additional ERC researchers involved include Anna Boriack and Kim Wright.

The ETEAMS project was designed as a partnership between Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi Independent School District. Funded through NSF's Math and Science Partnership (MSP) program, the project seeks to implement a new teaching fellowship program that will improve the quantity, quality, and diversity of middle levels mathematics teachers in high-need schools; provide rich experiences in science for Grades 4-8 students and teachers; and coordinate opportunities for scientists, teacher education faculty, and K-12 teachers to collaborate in content-based scientific research projects.

Systematic classroom observation, interviews, and survey data will be used to examine the four program components: (a) preparation of elementary preservice teachers for middle levels STEM teaching, (b) enhanced STEM teaching and learning in Grades 4-8 in partner schools, (c) sustainable institutional change and innovation, and (d) dissemination of promising practices and contributions to STEM teaching and learning.

For additional information, please contact Jackie Stillisano at [jstillisano@tamu.edu](mailto:jstillisano@tamu.edu) or Hersh Waxman at [hwaxman@tamu.edu](mailto:hwaxman@tamu.edu).

### Recent ERC Publications

Padrón, Y. N., Waxman, H. C., & Lee, Y-H. (2014). Classroom learning environment differences between resilient, average, and non-resilient middle school students in reading. *Education and Urban Society*, 46(2), 264-283. DOI: 10.1177/0013124512446217

Waxman, H. C. (2013-14). Avoiding ignorance and mindlessness in educational research: Moving from "good enough" studies to more mindful approaches. *Journal of Contemporary Research in Education*, 1(3), 98-103.

Waxman, H. C., Evans, R. T., Boriack, A. W. & Kilinc, E. (2013-14). Systematic observations of the availability and use of instructional technology in urban middle school classrooms. *Journal of Contemporary Research in Education*, 1(3), 104-113.

### ERC Presented Seminars for 2013-2014

The ERC presented the third event of its 2013-2014 seminar series on March 26, 2014. Dr. Johannes Strobel, associate professor and director of Educational Outreach Programs in the College of Engineering and College of Education and Human Development, presented a seminar on *Engineering as a four-pronged innovation in P-12 education: Examples from a use-inspired research agenda*.



## ERC Presented Seminars for 2013-2014

The ERC presented the fourth and final event of its 2013-2014 seminar series on April 23, 2014. Dr. Lori Taylor, associate professor in the Bush School of Government and Public Service, along with the Bush School Capstone Team, presented their capstone research project: *Investing in adult literacy in Houston: An analysis of needs, benefits, and costs*. Members of the Capstone Team were Nick Fette, Shireen Jahedkar, Mary Christina Riley, Hamid Shafieezadeh, Terry Sun, and Angela Yan.



## Congratulations to ERC Affiliates on the Following Recognitions



Tracey Hodges, ERC graduate researcher, was honored in February 2014 at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Southwest Educational Research Association in New Orleans, LA. Tracey won the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award and the Dean's Award for her paper and presentation titled *The Effects of teacher technology proficiency on student technology use*.

Dr. Yolanda Padron, ERC Program Area Leader, was honored in February 2014 at the annual meeting of the National Association for Bilingual Education held in San Diego, California. She received the Bilingual Research Journal 2013 Senior Career Award.



## ERC Presentations

### AERA

- Alford, B. L., Rollins, K. B., Waxman, H. C., Brown, D. B., & Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E. (2014, April). *Using classroom observation to explore the effectiveness of a one-on-one tutoring program for struggling readers*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Alford, B. L., Rollins, K. B., Brown, D. B., Waxman, H. C., & Stillisano, J. R. (2014, April). *Use of systematic classroom observation to evaluate professional development needs in Qatar Independent Schools*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Brown, D. B., Alford, B. L., Rollins, K. B., Waxman, H. C., Stillisano, J. R., Smith, D. L., & Kelly, L. J. (2014, April). *Examining the effectiveness of a teacher education model designed to prepare preservice teachers to assist secondary students to become college and career ready*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Hodges, T. S., McTigue, E. M., Wright, K. L., Franks, A. D., Douglass, A. G., & Scott, C. E. (April 2014). *Comprehending texts through multiple perspectives*. Paper presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Weber, N. D. (2014, April). *Evaluating novice teachers through the use of multiple observation instruments*. Presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Padrón, Y. N., Waxman, H. C., Rollins, K. B., Alford, B. L., & Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E. (2014, April). *Using classroom observations to examine classroom instruction for ELLs in elementary school classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Waxman, H. C., Boriack, A. W., Rivera, H. H., Evans, R. T., Rollins, K. B., & Alford, B. L. (2014, April). *Development of an instrument to measure flourishing learning environments in rural school classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

### National

- Rollins, K. B., Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E., Waxman, H. C., & Padrón, Y. N. (2014, February). *Case studies of summer collaborative youth programs focusing on summer learning loss*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference (EQRC), Las Vegas, NV.
- Rollins, K. B., Alford, B. L., Brown, D. B., Waxman, H. C., & Stillisano, J. R. (2014, February). *Evaluating the implementation of a statewide college and career readiness initiative*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators, St. Louis, MO.
- Brown, D. B., Waxman, H. C., Alford, B. L., & Rollins, K. B. (2014, February). *Program-related differences among student perceptions of teacher preparation programs*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators, St. Louis, MO.
- Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E., Padrón, Y. N., & Waxman, H. C. (2014, February). *Examining dual language and ESL teachers' knowledge, professional development, and perceptions of second language programs*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE), San Diego, CA.
- Padrón, Y. N., Waxman, H. C., & Franco-Fuenmayor, S. E. (2014, February). *Beyond value-added assessments: Alternative methods for evaluating teachers and improving student learning*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE), San Diego, CA.

### Regional

- Stillisano, J. R., Waxman, H. C., Wright, K. B., & Boriack, A. W. (2014, March). *Lessons learned from evaluating STEM Initiatives*. Paper presented at the New Horizons in Texas STEM Education Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Weber, N. D. (2014, March). *The use of classroom observation to examine technology integration in secondary classrooms*. Presented at the 2014 Workshop on the Impact of Pen and Touch Technology in Education, College Station, TX.
- Weber, N. D., Waxman, H. C., Brown, D. B., & Kelly, L. J. (2014, February). *Examining novice and experienced classroom teachers using a systematic classroom observation protocol*. Presented at the annual conference of the Southwest Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Weber, N. D., Hodges, T. S., & Waxman, H. C. (February, 2014). *The impact of self-efficacy and program quality on the teaching field commitment of pre-service teachers*. Paper presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southwest Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.