

# Happenings In Education

*A WORD FROM THE CHAIR. . .*

**I keep hearing, “Spring is just around the corner” and am then snapped into reality by the local weather forecasters talking about “snow” or “freezing rain.” I was thinking about how I fix my eyes on the weather and conditions around me rather than fixing my eyes on God.**

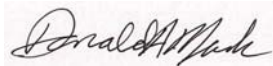
**Hebrews 12:1-2**

**“ . . . Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith... ”**

**The words of this chapter were penned to encourage believers who were facing great persecution to "fix" their eyes on the perfect example of the Lord Jesus Christ who overcame life's toughest obstacles. To win the race, the Olympian must stay focused on the goal, put forth his very best effort, and stay committed to the task. In the Christian life, winning requires the same disciplines. You must lay aside the sinful habits and attitudes that hold you back and fix your eyes on Jesus. Only by focusing on and following His example of love, surrender and obedience can you win the race.**

**Yes, the Christian race requires great commitment and focus, but has one great reward that the Olympic games do not have. In the Christian race, every runner can win. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 9:24, ". . . They all run to obtain the prize." What an encouraging thought! If you fix your eyes on Jesus as you run the race of life, you are a guaranteed winner. No other race on earth can boast such greatness. No wonder J. Vernon McGee, well-known Bible teacher and author, refers to Hebrews 12 as "the hope chapter." Spring is coming. We have accomplished much this year but our race is not over. We have much to do in the remaining months on this academic year. It is my prayer that we will run this race together constantly lifting each other up in prayer and support.**

Blessings to you and your families.



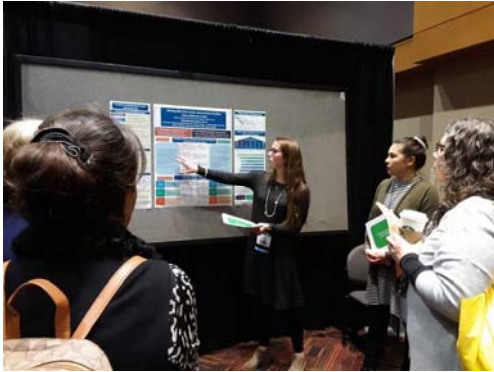
Department of Education, Chair



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# Messiah Students Present on How to Write Legally Defensible IEPs



Leah Kasper guides participants through critique of a Present Level that was flawed and then specific corrections to improve specificity and readability toward an improved IEP that actually guides intervention practice.

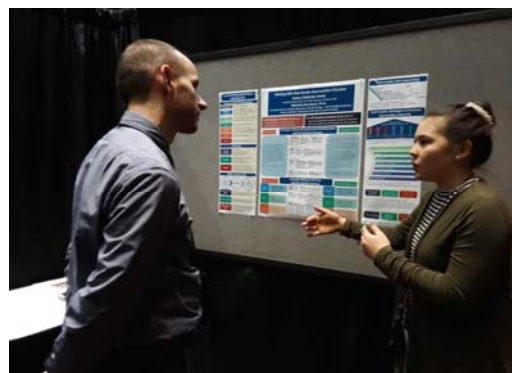


Becca Hegman (Dual Major, 2019) guides a teacher through an interactive critique of an IEP goal to improve appropriate details in the context and conditions of a goal.

At the 2019 Council for Exceptional Children International Convention, Dr. Melinda Burchard presented twice, once about practical applications of the Endrew F. Supreme Court case. Her second presentation included three co-presenters, all Messiah College Dual Majors, on the topic of how to write legally defensible IEPs. The quality of IEPs has been a heightened need since the Endrew F Supreme Court Case (2017) raised the requirements for students with disabilities to make progress with high expectations. Becca Hegman, Leah Kasper, and Olivia Rossi are all seniors pursuing teacher certification in elementary and special education. After past strong performance on their own IEP writing skills, they met additional times outside of classes to enhance their abilities to teach others about components of quality IEPs. Each student specialized on specific components or requirements of a legally defensible IEP, sharing the basic information on the poster and then workshopped using interactive materials so participants could actively engage with the learning. Response was strongly positive with immediate recruitment to graduate schools and employment, and expressions of appreciation from professors, special education supervisors, and teachers from all around the nation (Maryland, Nevada, Hawaii, etc.) and the world (including Japan). Becca, Leah, and Olivia are collaborating with Dr. Burchard in future smaller scale workshops on IEP writing as well.



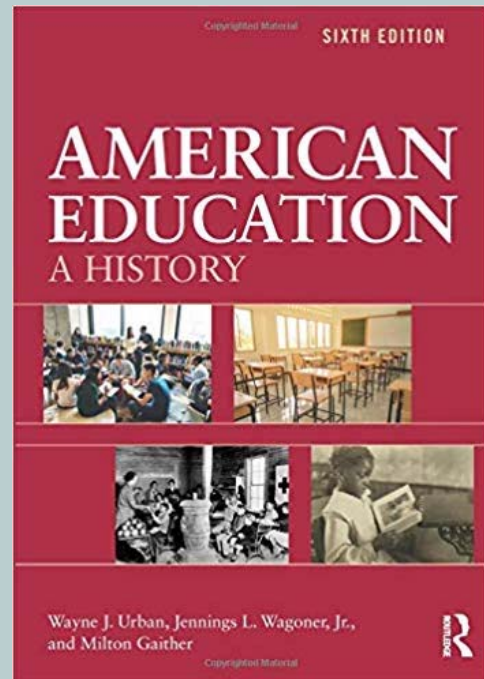
Dr. Pam Baker, a professor of special education from George Mason University, and Dr. Burchard's own dissertation chair, spent time with the Messiah students, including discussions of graduate school options.



Olivia Rossi explains how to integrate implications of the Endrew F. Supreme Court case (ambitious high expectations) with sequencing of Intervention Intensity in determining next steps in an ambitious IEP goal, one that supports progress of the child appropriate for the child's unique needs.

## DR. GAITHER'S NEW BOOK!

Dr. Gaither's book (co-written with Wayne J. Urban, and Jennings L. Wagoner, Jr.) *American Education: A History*, has just been released! *American Education: A History, Sixth Edition* is a comprehensive, highly regarded history of American education from precolonial times to the present. Chronologically organized, it provides an objective overview of each major period in the development of American education, setting the discussion against the broader backdrop of national and world events. In addition to its in-depth exploration of Native American traditions (including education) prior to colonization, it also offers strong, ongoing coverage of minorities and women. This much-anticipated sixth edition brings heightened attention to the history of education of individuals with disabilities, of classroom pedagogy and technology, of teachers and teacher leaders, and of educational developments and controversies of the twenty-first century. The book can be found on Amazon!



## Upcoming Event

Every spring the Department of Education holds a Farewell and Commissioning Service for its graduating seniors. Come for an inspiring evening as we celebrate God's goodness and challenge this year's Department of Education graduates to lead lives of purpose as they depart Messiah.

This year's event will occur May 8, 2019, 7 p.m. in Parmer Hall.

Department of Education alumni, students, their friends and family and cooperating teachers are invited to attend. The service includes scripture reading, prayer, a brief meditation usually given by a department graduate, musical performances by local school groups, a commissioning litany, and the presentation of lapel pins to the graduates. The lapel pin challenges and reminds graduates to continue to learn, serve, and care through their work as teachers. A reception and time of fellowship follows the service.



## Mentor Teacher Dinner 2019

Each semester the Teacher Education Program hosts the teachers who are mentoring our junior field experience students for a catered dinner. This year our event included music from junior Music Education major, Josh Song, words of appreciation from senior Education major, Danielle Cardone, and encouraging words for mentors from Messiah College alumnae and Harrisburg School District teacher, Lauren Popeck.





## Social Studies Methods Students Study Alternative Ways to Learn



**S**ocial Studies Methods students have been studying Authentic Learning and exploring the use of Concrete and Representational resources. Students constructed 3D models that could be utilized to explain complex concepts such as the three branches of government and the production process for bringing orange juice to the table. Additionally, students recently used tangible realia to construct a classroom museum that told the story of Messiah College student campus life. Students brought artifacts from their dorm room or home and arranged them to turn Boyer Hall Room 271 into the Messiah College Campus Experience Museum. Students learned how interacting with primary sources and artifacts create a powerful means of making a personal emotional connection to events from the past and the people who lived them.

## Math Intervention Kits for Special Needs Children

**F**or a special education course about students with mild and moderate disabilities, Messiah College juniors serve teachers from Northern York County School District in creation of math intervention kits. The teachers come to our class once to explain their math intervention needs and tell about the children in their classes. Then Messiah's students design intervention materials and lessons to meet those needs. The teachers returned to Messiah's campus on Wednesday, February 27th for demonstrations of the math kits, leaving with new materials they can use in math interventions for children with disabilities or math difficulties. This mutually beneficial collaboration has been occurring for several years now, thanks to the partnership with teachers, supportive school administrators, and Connie Bleiler, a math coach for the Northern York County School District.



**Caption 1:** At the start of the math intervention project, Lori Warren met with Shay Williams and Mariah Frey to explain her math intervention practices and the unique needs of her students.

**Caption 2:** Katie Hipple designed an intervention to support place value reasoning, including ways for children to check reasoning using multiple types of manipulatives.


**Caption 3:** Lexy Poe demonstrates her intervention on reasoning about the characteristics of 2-D and 3-D shapes.

**Caption 4:** For 4th grade teacher, Amy Wildasin, Emily Deardorff demonstrates a self-checking interactive manipulative to support finding factors.

**Caption 5:** Shay Williams explains the developmental sequencing of her five intervention activities on rounding and place value.

**Caption 6:** When Messiah students finished their presentations, our client teachers then shared about their own expertise and career paths. Here, Matt Vance shares ways he grew in behavior management with Jaryn Ruth and Lexy Poe.






YOU'RE INVITED TO  
**Collaborating with  
Confidence,  
Composure and Grace**  
*By: Gabby Brooks*

Have you ever wanted more resources to support communicating with families in a school classroom? Come learn about effective practices for parent-teacher interactions, including support of productive struggle for learning. Audience participants will have the opportunity to explore a toolkit supporting collaborative relationships with the families of their students. Together, let's learn to collaborate with confidence, composure, and grace.



*March 15, 2019  
Parmer Cinema  
3 o'clock in the afternoon*

Refreshments begin at 2:30 pm



# So You Think You Know Your Professors?

How well do you REALLY know the professors you claim to know and love? Here's a chance to put your knowledge to the test!

See if you can match each professor with their fun fact. The first five students to submit the correct answers to Caroline Downing at [cd1323@messiah.edu](mailto:cd1323@messiah.edu) will win a sweet treat!!

## Professor

1. Jennifer Fisler
2. Milton Gaither
3. Tina Keller
4. Don Murk
5. Sarah Fischer
6. David Hazen
7. Ariela Vader
8. Melinda Burchard

## Fun Fact

- A. Was the producer of The Jim and Tammy Show at the PTL Television Network in Charlotte, NC before they came to Messiah
- B. Was planning on going into Pre-Med until they got a C in intro to Biology
- C. Played on the Texas A&M handball team
- D. Loves country outlaw music (Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, etc.)
- E. Loves Swedish fish & Chai tea. (Maybe their students will bring them some?)
- F. Their first real job was to demonstrate how to use an ATM machine.
- G. Can play the saxophone
- H. Loves thrift stores