

# Happenings in Education

## A Word From The Chair..

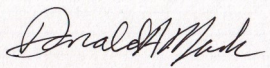
Here we are again, nearing the end of another semester, and what a semester it has been! I pray you all had a happy Thanksgiving and enjoyed your time celebrating with family and friends.

Although the Thanksgiving season is over for the year, the spirit of thankfulness is not. I am reminded of a question I've heard, "If we woke tomorrow with only the things that we thank God for today, what would we have?"

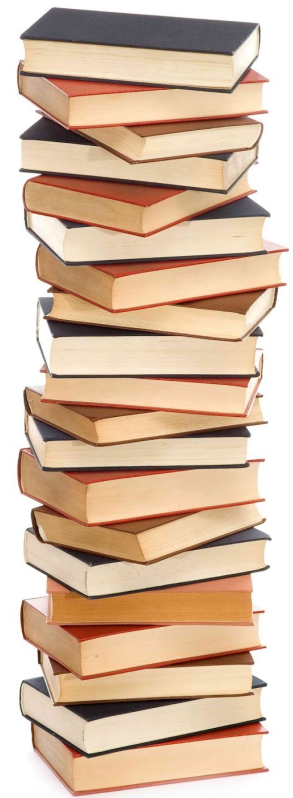
Philippians 4: 6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (NIV).

In the craziness that comes with the end of the semester, in creating and taking final exams, please remember to reflect on the birth of Christ and give thanks for the many blessings all of us have. For every good thing comes from Christ."

Blessings to you and your families.



Donald A. Murk  
Department of Education, Chair



### Inside this issue

Leadership in IEP Quality.....	2-3
Information Literacy Skills Research.....	4
PAC-TE.....	5
2019 Education Department Fall Forum.....	6
MCEA.....	7
Garden Harvest Day.....	8
Book Sale.....	9

# Leadership in IEP Quality

On Tuesday, October 8th, five seniors co-presented with Dr. Melinda Burchard at Leadership in IEP Quality. From sixteen area school districts, pairs of Special Educators and Special Education Administrators participated in this full-day professional development workshop. Content emphasized implications of recent court cases, quality components of IEP goals, sequencing of intervention intensity, and assessing the quality of IEPs. Dr. Burchard's co-presenters were all seniors who will graduate in May with dual certification in elementary grades and special education: Abby Foster, May Kirk, Moriah Ramsey, Brittney Wilkerson, and Shay Williams.





This workshop first took place on July 30th. It was so popular that they hosted another event in October!





# Information Literacy Skills Research

Melinda Burchard, Associate Professor of Special Education, recently collaborated with Sarah Myers, the Education Department's Liaison Librarian, to improve student learning about information literacy specific to finding and using evidence-based teaching practices. When Melinda noticed a need to improve her students' skill-specific training on information literacy, she sought consultative support from the Education Department's Liaison Librarian, Sarah Myers. Sarah recommended refinements to the sequencing of information literacy development throughout the entire unit. The primary improvement was use of two formative assessments to discover which students needed individual support in the information literacy skills important to finding and reasoning with evidence-based teaching practices. Students answered surveys about how much and what types of experiences they had with previous college-level library research and their feelings about those experiences. During their early process of searching for articles, they also used screencast software to record their actions searching for and citing articles, with students verbalizing their reasoning as they did so. Analysis of the formative assessment data showed that some responses to the Information Literacy Survey or some behaviors during their screencasts were predictive of outcomes such as grades on the assignment or growth in self-efficacy for finding and using evidence-based practices (an important skill in teaching). Dr. Burchard and Sarah Myers presented their findings at the 2019 Conference and Exhibition of the American Library Association. They also published an article about the project and study in the *Journal of College Reading and Learning*: Burchard, M.S. and Myers, S. (2019). Early information literacy experience matters to self-efficacy and performance outcomes in teacher education. *Journal of College Reading and Learning*, 49(2). doi: 10.1080/10790195.2019.1582372



Dr. Burchard at the ALA Summer Presentation with Sarah Myers

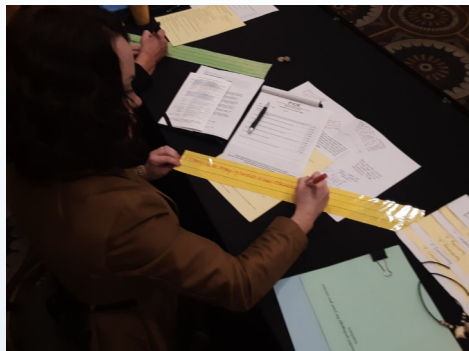
A TEACHER  
OPENS MINDS  
AND TOUCHES  
HEARTS ❤️

# PAC-TE

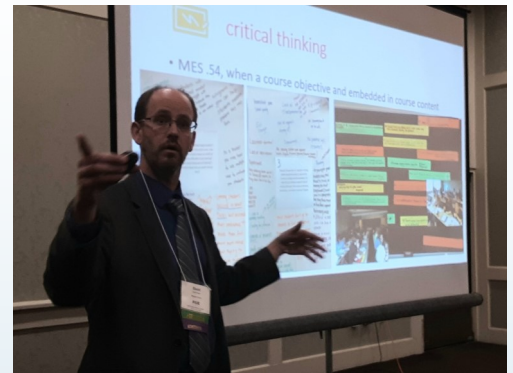


Jennifer Fisler co-presented with Tricia Joergensen of Holy Family about their study comparing the outcomes of student teaching through traditional and co-teaching models. Their study earned the Professional Achievement Award for Distinguished Research.

The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators held their 48th Annual Teacher Education Assembly in October. Several Education Department Faculty and Teacher Education Program faculty and staff participated.



One engagement activity demonstrated by Dr. Hazen was "What the Hashtag" through which presentation participants summarized their prior knowledge of evidence-based practices in a sentence strip "tweet".



David Hazen co-presented with Melinda Burchard about modeling evidence-based teaching practices while teaching course content.

# 2019 Education Department Fall Forum

Following Clues: Interactions of Self-Efficacy, Information Literacy and IEP Quality

## Presenters:

**Melinda Burchard**, Ph. D., Associate Professor of Special Education

**Sarah Myers**, M.S.L.S., Murray Library Collection Development Coordinator, and Liaison Librarian

**Katie Hipple**, Smith Scholar Intern for IEP Quality

## What:

In Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, 2 related studies showed interaction across college experiences between information literacy skills, self-efficacy, and quality of a student product. Come learn about these studies and apply to your own practice as a college scholar and teacher or as a teacher in PreK-12th grades.

## When:

Wed November 13, 4-5pm

## Where:

Boyer 131

Refreshments Provided





# MCEA

The Messiah College Education Association, MCEA, offered an informational meeting to explore the minor in Speech and Language Pathology. Students explored no tech and low tech augmentative and alternative communication methods. To explore related roles of a Speech Scientist and/or a Speech Language Pathologist, students engaged with helping a partner communicate requests using ONLY eye gaze, no words, and no movement other than the eyes. They could ask for bubbles, blocks, Legos or dancing scarves, and could communicate yes/no or stop/go by looking at one symbol given a choice of two.



## Latest MCEA events:

- **November 5** - Teacher Perceptions workshop for Teaching English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities by Ann Rohrbaugh, graduate student, Messiah College.

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Messiah College Education Association (MCEA) has been busy this fall! In October, MCEA hosted a workshop presented by Dr. Melinda Burchard on Speech and Language Pathology. The activities were both engaging and informative! In November, MCEA assembled bags of snacks for the hard working student teachers, and offer words of encouragement and scripture to sustain them.

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"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

WINSTON CHURCHILL



# Garden Harvest Day...

On Sunday, October 6th, 38 juniors in Inclusion Practices volunteered at Garden Harvest Day. Through that event, Messiah College serves the Environmental Education Program of Kings Gap State Park plus area families. In return, our students have the opportunity to practice concepts of collaboration and service and reflect on applications of course concepts through service.





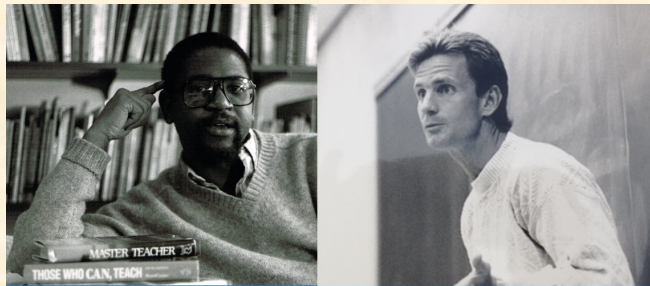
## Children's Book Sale...

The Department of Education hosted a Children's Book Sale in October! Books were donated by the Early Learning Center, library, Dr. Caroline Maurer and others.

Proceeds will fund a new urban education scholarship to honor Dr. Murk and Steven B. Hayes.

The book sale took place the day of Homecoming and was open to the public Oct. 21 & 22. The sale was attended by the public, alumni, students, faculty, and friends!

**A big thank you to everyone who attended or assisted!!**



*Coming to Messiah College Homecoming 2019?*

*If so, don't miss the*

***children's book sale, 11 am -3 pm!***

*In the old ELC, basement, back of Hostetter Chapel.*

*Hardback books are \$2, Paperback books are \$1.*

*All proceeds go toward an urban teaching student scholarship in honor of Steve Hayes and Don Murk.*

