

Partnerships update

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Our mission is to work collaboratively with higher education, preK-12 public schools, and the community to improve the lives of students

Director's Note: Let's Get Ready for School

It is hard to believe that the “summer break” will end in just a few weeks. While many of us have taken a few days off to relax, we have also spent many weeks reviewing past efforts, planning future activities, and pursuing opportunities to advance the work that we do. The children and families we serve are also in transition. They are getting ready for school.

For many in our community, this time of year brings added expenses that they simply cannot afford. The cost of school supplies, new shoes/clothes for growing children, and equipment for athletics and other activities can quickly add up. For some, the daily challenges of getting the children up and out of the house before the school bus arrives, securing safe, supervised afterschool care, providing wholesome meals, and spending quality family time can be difficult to manage. I believe that all families want their children to be successful, but some families have more obstacles in the way. I encourage you to do what you can to help everyone in our community get ready for school.



Some ideas that come to mind are:

Donate school supplies— Join CPIE in supporting Teacher Supply Closet, Charleston Hope, Hootie and the Blowfish Home Grown Round-Up, and the City of Charleston’s First Day Festival, or find another organization or supply drive.

Support afterschool care— Sponsor a child by paying afterschool fees for a week, month, or more.

Encourage cooperation— Help families work together to wake up the children of second and third shift workers, monitor school bus stops, buy and cook healthy foods in bulk, share gently used items, and more.

Share your time— Become a school or afterschool volunteer, mentor, or tutor.

Create space— Provide tips, supplies, or furniture to help families create a space for their children to study and stay organized at home.

Please share your ideas so we all can get ready for school!

Counting down the days,
Courtney

Dr. Rénard Harris, CPIE Faculty Fellow



The new CPIE Faculty Fellow program allows a current College of Charleston faculty member to be jointly appointed to both CPIE and their home department for one year. The selected Fellow has fewer teaching responsibilities and more time for his/her own educational research related to partnerships. Please join us in welcoming **Dr. Rénard Harris** as the 2013-2014 CPIE Faculty Fellow.

Dr. Harris is an associate professor in the College of Charleston’s Department of Teacher Education. After earning his doctorate in teacher education from the University of Tennessee, Dr. Harris joined the College of Charleston’s faculty in 2005. He teaches social studies methods and a variety of middle school courses. Dr. Harris is a gifted storyteller and harmonica-wielding blues man from Moss Point, MS. His research addresses storytelling as it relates to teaching, learning, culture, and voice. He has published and presented research, lesson plans, and poetry in a number of professional settings. As the first CPIE Faculty Fellow, Dr. Harris will study how storytelling instructional design in afterschool programs impacts academic achievement in Title 1 schools.

Students on the Job

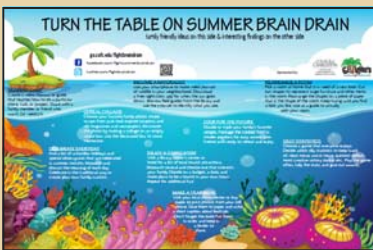
A look at CPIE's student staff

Fight Summer Brain Drain

Summer brain drain...summer learning loss...summer slide.

Regardless of what you call it, it is not a good thing! All students experience some level of academic learning loss during the summer months. These losses can amount to one month of classroom time, and they can accumulate over the years. This can be especially problematic for struggling students and those with limited access to summer enrichment.

CPIE and Gilligan's Seafood Restaurants partnered to *Turn the Table on Summer Brain Drain* by providing colorful placemats with ideas to promote summer learning. Also featured on the double-sided placemats were several interesting research findings about summer learning loss. The staff at the Mount Pleasant, Goose Creek, and John's Island restaurants used the placemats to set the table for over 37,000 customers between June 15 and July 14. As part of a research project by CPIE's graduate assistant (read more about Rachel on this page), social media informed and engaged the public in Charleston-area learning activities. Visit go.cofc.edu/fightbraindrain to learn more about the initiative.



Sometimes a small staff is charged to do big work. Such is the case with CPIE. Our core staff consists of two individuals—the director and the administrative assistant—but we are fortunate to have access to the expert faculty and hard-working students at the College of Charleston. In this issue, we introduce three students who worked with CPIE during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Rachel Etchason, Graduate Assistant



Rachel is pursuing her Master of Education degree in the Teaching, Learning, and Advocacy program. A native of St. Simons Island, GA, Rachel earned her undergraduate degree in early childhood education from Georgia State University. She has been a graduate assistant with CPIE since fall 2012, and will remain until she graduates in December 2013. Her research project focuses on the impact of social media on adult engagement to help reduce summer learning loss in students.

As a graduate assistant, Rachel is invaluable in researching and organizing information, designing a variety of publications, and lending a helping hand with any task or project. She and fellow graduate student Katie Fleck planned and implemented CPIE's activity table for the recent STEM-focused Education Day. That event was sponsored by the Lady Cougars basketball team and hosted over 2000 students and teachers from the local area. Rachel was also an important member of the team that was responsible for holding the Early Childhood Summit at the College of Charleston in July 2013.

Clerc Cooper, Research Assistant



Clerc is a junior History major from New Orleans, LA. She is a William Aiken Fellow in the Honors College, on the varsity sailing team, and a member of Delta Gamma sorority and Pi Kappa Phi honors fraternity. Clerc has worked for CPIE since January 2013 and

will continue in Fall 2013. She is under the mentorship of Dr. Jon Hale, an education professor. Their research is part of *Jubilee Project 2013* to commemorate some historic milestones for African Americans in the U.S. CPIE is part of the Jubilee Project initiative that is housed at the College of Charleston.

Clerc and Dr. Hale have been identifying, researching, and interviewing individuals who desegregated South Carolina's public schools. They are doing this in partnership with Dr. Millicent Brown, a history professor at Claflin University and founder of the *Somebody Had to Do It* project that seeks to document and acknowledge school desegregation's "first children." Clerc was instrumental in executing the plans for the February 2013 panel discussion featuring six women who integrated public schools in Charleston County. She is also assisting with plans for a related event at Claflin University in September 2013.

Amy Hudacko, Summer Intern



Amy is a senior Special Education major from Irmo, SC. She is a South Carolina Teaching Fellow, a WINGS-Leader with the award-winning WINGS afterschool program, and a high school mentor. Amy completed a 6-week summer internship with CPIE in 2013. Her project involved aligning a preK-8 childhood obesity prevention curriculum to South Carolina's academic standards, as well as Common Core State Standards. Amy's internship was the crux of a partnership between CPIE and the Junior Doctors of Health program at the Medical University of South Carolina. Through her work, Amy increased her knowledge and familiarity with new and existing academic standards. She also ensured that when this curriculum is presented by medical students to local classrooms, the childhood obesity prevention content will be connected to the math, language arts, science, and social studies requirements for each grade level.

Calendar Highlights: January–May 2013

JAN In support of the Department of Teacher Education's initiative to enhance its preparation of teachers for all settings, CPIE partnered with locally renowned educator and administrator Mrs. Juanita Middleton to provide a series of interactive lectures throughout the spring 2013 semester. Her work with the teacher candidates helped strengthen their understanding of the impact of poverty on students, classrooms, and schools.

FEB CPIE supported a collaborative project and event with Dr. Jon Hale (College of Charleston education professor and Dr. Millicent Brown (Claflin University history professor). Their team's work was showcased in a public panel discussion featuring six individuals who integrated public schools in Charleston County. A proclamation from the City of Charleston was read and a copy was given to each of the panelists by Dr. Nancy McGinley, superintendent of Charleston County School District, who apologized for past wrong acts committed by the school district. Each of the panelists has since received additional recognitions, most notably a key to the City of Charleston.

MAR CPIE partnered with Tell Them/ New Morning Foundation to host a community forum. The purpose of the forum was to discuss the recent report on the dismal status of comprehensive sex education in South Carolina. The panel consisted of a school board member, a health educator, and a physician who co-

founded sexual education programs for youth and their parents.

APR CPIE hosted a campus visit for nearly 30 Youth Advisory Board members. These students attend one of three schools in Charleston County—Baptist Hill Middle/High, Morningside Middle, and Stall High School. During the school year, CPIE met with each Board every other month to gain valuable insight and advice on CPIE's youth-focused partnership ideas. College of Charleston students attended the bi-monthly meetings to talk about their college experiences. During their April visit, the Youth Advisory Board members toured the campus, enjoyed lunch in the dining hall, met with Admissions staff, and participated in two mock lessons with college professors.

MAY CPIE was part of a team that planned the first *Manufacturing for Educators Day* that exposed over 30 teachers and guidance counselors to manufacturing facilities and careers. Small groups of educators enjoyed a 3-4 hour experience in one of eight local sites, participated in an interactive lesson demonstration on manufacturing, and explored ways to share what they learned with students, parents, and other educators. Also on the planning team was the Trident Regional Education Center, the Lowcountry Manufacturers Council, and career/technology education coordinators from Charleston County and Berkeley County school districts.

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CHARLESTON

CENTER FOR
PARTNERSHIPS TO
IMPROVE EDUCATION

About Us

The Center for Partnerships to Improve Education (CPIE) is housed within the College of Charleston's School of Education, Health, and Human Performance. It was established in 2005 to support the improvement of public preK-12 education through partnerships. Though it initially focused on school reform, CPIE now pursues activities that cultivate varied partnerships; support faculty and students in research, service, and service-learning; and study or support studies of informal and out-of-school learning. All of CPIE's work addresses one or more of the following focus areas:

Teaching and Learning

Student learning outcomes improve when academic concerns in school, home, and community settings are addressed

Health and Wellness

This important area fosters the physical and emotional well-being of students and families and promotes healthy environments for work and play

Community Outreach

It is necessary to cultivate partnerships among stakeholders whose work relates to teaching and learning and health and wellness.

Research

The development of creative and rigorous research adds to existing bodies of knowledge, informs the work of the other three focus areas, and provides opportunities to study current and emerging best practices.

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