

# THE Educator



# PREPARING

*Competent+Collaborative+Caring+Reflective*

# EDUCATORS

## **Dalton State School of Education – Dean’s Message**

In the School of Education, we have much of which to be proud. Several of our faculty and some of our teacher candidates and education majors are participating in Learning Academies. Through the Learning Academies, they are working with parents and children to build early literacy skills. Our teacher candidates are passing GACE with great success. In addition, teacher candidates’ scores on edTPA are surpassing state and national averages on many of the elements of the evaluation. The number of our graduates securing jobs shortly after graduation is on the rise and surpassed 80% in Spring 2016. Some of our graduates have secured teaching positions before they even finish their student teaching semester. Teacher candidates have presented at state and national conferences. We have two established Professional Developmental Schools, one with Blue Ridge

Elementary in Dalton Public Schools and one with Eastbrook Middle School in Whitfield County Schools. We are expanding the counties in which our teacher candidates can be placed. In fact, we have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Savannah-Chatham Schools. We added the Autism Endorsement this academic year, and our first classes are being offered this semester. Faculty continue to contribute to the community and their professions. Despite all of these successes, we are firmly committed to continuous improvement in our programs. With that in mind, we will be launching a system of interviews with some of our graduates to learn how well they were prepared when they entered the classroom and to garner suggestions from them for program improvement. Looking forward, fifteen teacher candidates will travel to Mexico during spring break with two School of Education faculty. We are also pleased to know that a minimum of six teacher candidates will offer

science and literacy lessons at summer feeding sites this summer. Teacher candidates will be selected to participate in this endeavor, funded with a GOSA (Governor’s Office of Student Achievement), through a competitive application process. We also are in the planning stage for another Professional Development School with a partner in a third county. The School of Education sets a high priority on building reciprocal and successful partnerships with the public schools in our region.

-Sharon Hixon



## Dalton State School of Education and GA School for the Deaf-



In September of this semester the SoE has had the privilege of visiting the GA School for the Deaf as well as having some of their faculty visit the SoE. “This experience has been one of the most rewarding learning experiences of my semester”.  
–Block I Student

## School of Education Promotes Program at UNG

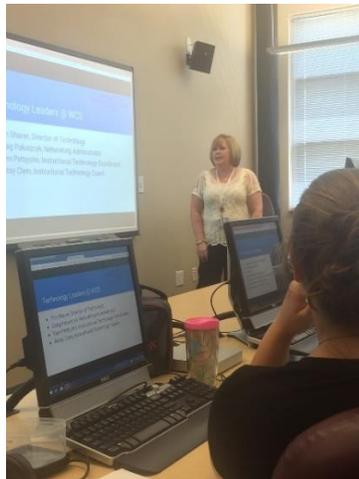


In October of 2016, two block III students, Madison Ellis and Julia Bowen (along with Mr. Overstreet) attended the PAGE Conference to promote the school of education at the University of North Georgia. This conference had over 180 high school students within the region looking at area-wide educational programs. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators provides

educators with professional learning that enhances competence, confidence and leadership skills, leading to higher achievement for students. “Our program was indeed the most popular and well-attended by these high school students who aspire to be teachers” – Mr. Overstreet

## Dalton State School of Education Technology in Action

This semester, the SoE has intentionally guided the technology learning experience for all teacher candidates. We have had special guests from Southern Adventist



University, Whitfield

County Schools, RESA as well as current teachers within the area deliver practical hands-on technology experiences for our teacher candidates.

## Dalton State School of Education and Blue Ridge Elementary



During the fall semester of 2016, many of our block III students held class at our Learning Partner School, Blue Ridge Elementary. “This is what it’s all about – Practical learning at its best” – Dr. Lovey Mesco



## Dalton State Graduates – Fall 2017

Congratulations to the graduating class of “Fall 2017” cohort. You will all be great teachers! Good luck as you go out and make a difference in the lives of so many young people.



## Dalton State Graduate Found Sense of Belonging in School



Our very own, Nubia Ruiz was featured in the DSC News this semester. Nubia Ruiz credits much of her success in returning home and attending Dalton State College. She states; “I love the small community at Dalton State,”. “I could go anywhere I wanted, and I did. But I belong at Dalton State. I think it’s so important to go to school where you want to live and work if you can. You can immerse yourself in the community, get to know where you’ll be working and make a difference.” You can read more of the story at:

<https://www.daltonstate.edu/about/news.cms/2016/153/dalton-state-graduate-found-sense-of-belonging-in-school->

## Dalton State College School of Education Travels to Washington DC and New York City

In October of 2016, Mr. Overstreet and Mrs. Ridley led a group of students to Washington DC and NYC on its first domestic study tour. The trip was highlighted by visits to monuments, museums and the US Capital as well as Ground Zero in NYC and the Horace Mann School.



Leadership from Kennesaw State University. In her free time, Anna enjoys spending time with her husband and two young daughters, volunteering in the community, and traveling. She is thrilled to be a member of the School of Education family and is honored to be a part of preparing the next generation of educators.

### Andrea Ridley:

Andrea Ridley has been a resident of Murray County throughout her life and has been

married to Jason T. Ridley for just a little less than half of it. Jason and Andrea have 3 kids and own 4 Oaks Farm and Produce. Andrea was an educator in middle grades for the first 10 years of her career, teaching math and science. The next 5 years, she spent as an assistant principal of a local elementary school where she learned the needed elements of leadership to strengthen her teachers and students. Andrea is now teaching at Dalton State College School of Education, striving to share many of the skills she has learned along her journey.



## New Professors for the School of Education

### Anna Hart:

A lifelong resident of Dalton, Anna Hart comes to Dalton State as Lecturer in Education after nine years of classroom teaching in Dalton Public Schools. She has an Educational Specialist degree from Nova Southeastern University and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education degree in Teacher