

BACCALAUREATE MATTERS



SUMMER 2010

New School, New Milestones, Continued Success

By Dr. Kenneth P. Walker, President



Dr. Kenneth P. Walker

The baccalaureate degree programs have been very successful and very well received among current students, incoming students and the greater community. Propelled by this positive feedback, I am amazed and pleased to share the many new milestones reached by this department including the formation of the School of Education.

The School of Education is our first 'school' within the greater college community. Since the College opened its doors in 1962, we have been organized by divisions or disciplines, which is the standard practice among two-year colleges. As Edison State grows our four-year degree programs, the College has chosen to follow the practice that most four-year colleges and universities use in referring to major instructional units as 'schools'.

This new organizational structure positions the college to continue to develop the baccalaureate mission. It is believed that over time, this new structure will empower the faculty, facilitate communication, increase accountability for effective teaching and professional growth, and enhance the student experience.

I am sincerely proud and humbled when I see our faculty, students and staff working with such determination toward making our College a better place to learn. I applaud each of you for your achievements.

Sincerely,
Kenneth P. Walker

"Thank you Edison State College" –Finkbeiner



Minnie Sample is among the first graduating class to earn a Bachelor's in Elementary Education.

When Minnie Sample enrolled in Edison State's Elementary Education program she thought she knew what it would take to be a good elementary school teacher.

"I thought I already had what it takes to be a good teacher—but I didn't," said Sample. "Now, after going through this I can say with confidence that I do. I have learned a lot about myself and realize my teaching style will be much different now because of the information and experience this program has provided me."

Cheryl Finkbeiner decided to enroll in the Elementary Education program at Edison State College after earning her Associates Degree.

"I am an older student and knew that Edison State did not just cater to the normal college age student clientele," said Finkbeiner. "I loved the fact that all the classes were small and personable."

"I wanted the personal connection with my teachers in a small class setting and I definitely received that with this program."

These two are part of the first graduating class of the Edison State College Elementary Education program.

"At the beginning the courses I was taking were somewhat challenging for me," said Sample. "Luckily I had wonderful instructors who were extremely helpful and willing to put in the extra effort to make sure I succeeded. I have never had a group of professors who were so thorough with their explanations and class work as the professors that I had in the program."

"For me the most challenging part of this program was *Continued on page 2...*

In This Issue

- Meet the School of Education Team...
- New Health Science Bachelor Degree Program...
- Filling the Void in the Middle...

Edison State's Elementary Education Program is a Stand-out in the State

Edison State College Elementary Education student Scott Hall will give his future students a little extra. He will enter the classroom as a fully certified ESOL instructor from a fully accredited elementary education program.

"This is particularly helpful in Southwest Florida," said Hall. "I feel proud to bring that extra training to my future classes. I want to work with our diverse student populations." Hall is one of more than 150 students enrolled in ESC's Elementary Education program, recently accredited by the Florida Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Edison State is among an elite number of Colleges earning full SACS accreditation. And, even more prestigious – the accreditation was awarded in its first attempt!

The application team worked long nights, reviewed best practices and aligned the courses appropriately. "To earn accreditation in the first attempt – without a single additional review is practically unheard of," said Dr. Steve Atkins, Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs. "This team did it! They are that good."



Elementary Education students Meghan Dolan, Scott Hall, and Joe Belfi work on projects in the Education Curriculum lab.

Profile of a Graduate



Pete Bulanda is part of ESC's first graduating class of Elementary Education students.

Describe your decision to enroll in the Elementary Education program at Edison State College.

I have always been great with kids and have been a youth baseball, basketball, soccer, and tennis coach at various times in my adult life. As soon as it became a four-year education program, I knew it was the right place for me. It was also a good financial decision for us at the time as we would be paying for most of my education expenses out-of-pocket for the foreseeable future.

What did you like best?

I am very proud to carry this distinction as I am sure all of my classmates are as well. The professors in the education classes at Edison State College are not only some of the best professors that I have ever had the privilege of learning from, but they are some of the best people that I have ever encountered. They seem to understand that we all have lives outside of Edison State College and make it a priority to be accessible and available to their students when they are needed.

What did you find most challenging?

The most challenging part for me was being able to find the right balance between being a husband, father, student, and any of the many other "hats" that I find myself wearing on a daily basis. I find it hard to say "no" at times and often felt overwhelmed by what I had taken on at Edison as other responsibilities interfered with getting my schoolwork done.

What advice do you have for others who may be interested in this program?

Just do it! There is no time like the present to change your future. I am almost 40 years old and if I can do it, anyone can!

CONTINUED FROM COVER...

"Thank you Edison State College"

how to balance my time between school and work," said Finkbeiner. With a smile she adds, "The other most challenging part was learning to play the recorder and then having to perform in concert before others. I had never played a musical instrument in my life, so learning to read music was very challenging."

Finkbeiner offers this advice to others considering the program. "I looked at other programs in the area and I am so glad I made the decision to attend Edison's program. There is no program around that will give you the attention and the quality of instructors that I experienced at Edison State College. Thank you Edison State College for helping me to finish my Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Education!"



Cheryl Finkbeiner answers students' questions while working as a student teacher. ESC Elementary Education students observe teachers in the field, teach lessons through the practicum courses, and complete a full-time teaching internship in their final semester.

Filling the Void in the Middle:

New Bachelor Programs Approved for Middle School Math, Science and Language Arts Teachers

Right now there is no public or private school in Southwest Florida to educate Middle School Math, Science or Language Arts teachers, but the State of Florida predicts it will need to hire more than 3,000 middle school teachers in the next several years.

“We have an opportunity to provide more students access to in-demand careers in education,” said Dr. Erin Harrel, Associate Dean of the School of Education at Edison State College. Beginning this Fall, ESC will launch three new programs focused on training middle school teachers. These programs will prepare graduates to teach 5-9 grade levels in the applicable program discipline. These three programs represent the top three critical teacher shortage areas for 2009-2010.



Edison State College representatives were distinguished speakers at this recent Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA) conference in Tampa. The CCBA was founded by ESC President, Dr. Kenneth Walker, with a mission to promote better access to the baccalaureate degree on community college campuses, and to serve as a resource for information on various models for accomplishing this purpose. Pictured here: Dr. Erin Harrel, Dr. Edith Pendleton, Dr. Mireille Lauture, and Kristen Zimmerman.

Another First for Edison State – *School of Education likely to be the first of many*

Partnership, cohesion and pride, the newly formed School of Education is the way of the future at ESC. The Edison State College Board of Trustees unanimously approved the first ‘school’ within the College at its November meeting.

“The new school provides students and faculty a greater sense of camaraderie and also provides more visibility and oversight,” said Dr. Erin Harrel, Associate Dean of the School of Education.

Under this new organizational framework, the heads of the various schools will be deans or associate deans and the heads of departments will be called department chairs. Department chairs will be the college leaders close to where the instructional and scholarly mission of the College is carried out, and therefore, closest to the students.

Meet Our Newest Members!

Dr. Eileen DeLuca taught high school in Bronx, NY and Fort Myers, FL. She also coordinated a cross-age reading tutoring program with high school and elementary students, and taught adult education in Fort Myers for several years. She began her career at Edison State College in 2005. In addition to her strong assessment background, Dr. DeLuca earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Florida with a focus in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Dr. Christy Duda has worked in the field of education for 15 years



Edison State College began to offer education baccalaureate degrees in 2006. The programs have grown tremendously with more than 1,000 students a semester enrolling in the School of Education.

concentrated in the field of science and educational leadership. Dr. Duda joined the Edison State faculty in November of 2009. Since coming to ESC, she has served as the Field Experience Coordinator and an adjunct professor for the School of Education. She earned her doctorate from North Central University.

Dr. William Dwyer has worked with teacher preparation programs for K-12 teachers at schools of education, focusing mainly on science and mathematics teaching. He has taught education courses in both Japan and Ecuador; he also has focused on the use of educational technology in teaching, especially for science. Dr. Dwyer obtained his education doctorate in Science and Technology education from the University of Florida.



Dr. Eileen DeLuca
*School of Education
Chair*



Dr. Christy Duda
*Field Experience
Coordinator*



Dr. William Dwyer
*Science Education
Faculty*



Joyce Rollins
*School of Education
Faculty*

Professor Joyce Rollins comes to Edison State College with more than twenty-five years of teaching experience. Professor Rollins brings educational knowledge from Elementary to Graduate level teach experiences. For the past nine years, she has enriched the lives of students and faculty in the Graduate School of Education at George Mason University. Recently, she published an article, “Singing in my Own Voice”, which is a brilliant depiction of the impact and empowerment a true educator can have on their students.

Cardiopulmonary Sciences Degree becomes Edison State's 10th Baccalaureate Program

Sleep disorders, disease prevention, patient education and pulmonary rehabilitation are just a few of the important services a Respiratory Care Professional and Cardiovascular Technologists provide within the Southwest Florida community.

According to Dr. Jeff Elsberry, Program Director, Respiratory Care at Edison State College, the Cardiopulmonary Sciences B.A.S. program will prepare current professionals and future graduates to adopt expanded roles, work more independently across the continuum of care, and collaborate as partners on the healthcare delivery team.

"The industry standard within the profession is transitioning from previously requiring an associate's degree to requiring baccalaureate level preparation," said Elsberry. "Additionally, the Cardiopulmonary Sciences B.A.S. program provides career advancement for entry-level health profession practitioners. Students who develop management, leadership and advanced diagnostic skills will gain a broader-based understanding of both health care delivery skills and the leadership dimension."



Edison State is one of only three colleges in the country to have a VIST Simulator allowing students to practice such sophisticated and delicate procedures as removing blockages surrounding the heart.



An Honor and a Privilege

Professor Joyce Rollins smiles warmly when asked about Edison State's first Baccalaureate fraternity, Kappa Delta Epsilon.

"I am so proud of our students for wanting to give back to the community in so many ways," said Rollins. "Education students have huge hearts."

Kappa Delta Epsilon is an honorary professional fraternity. The group aims to promote the cause of education by fostering a spirit of fellowship, high standards of scholastic attainment, and professional ideals among its members.

Edison's chapter, Delta Zeta has 80 members. Baccalaureate level education students with a 2.75 GPA are eligible to join. The fraternity hosts membership drives and induction ceremonies at the beginning of both Fall and Spring semesters.

Research Shows:

- **96% of current ESC students express the desire to remain at Edison, to continue their studies.**
- **By 2013 there will be a need for an additional 3,397 middle grades math, science and language arts teachers in Florida.**
- **This May, 41 students are graduation candidates through one of the baccalaureate degrees offered at Edison State College. Just two years ago, this opportunity did not exist for our students.**



Encourage Someone You Know to Learn More

Edison State College now offers 10 bachelor degree programs:

- BAS in Cardiopulmonary Sciences
- BAS in Public Safety Administration
- BAS in Supervision and Management
- BS in Elementary Education
- BS in Middle Grades Language Arts Education
- BS in Middle Grades Mathematics Education
- BS in Middle Grades Science Education
- BS in Nursing
- BS in Secondary Biology Education
- BS in Secondary Mathematics Education

Contact Jenni Caves for more information at (239) 489-9385, (800) 749-2322 or jcaves@edison.edu.