

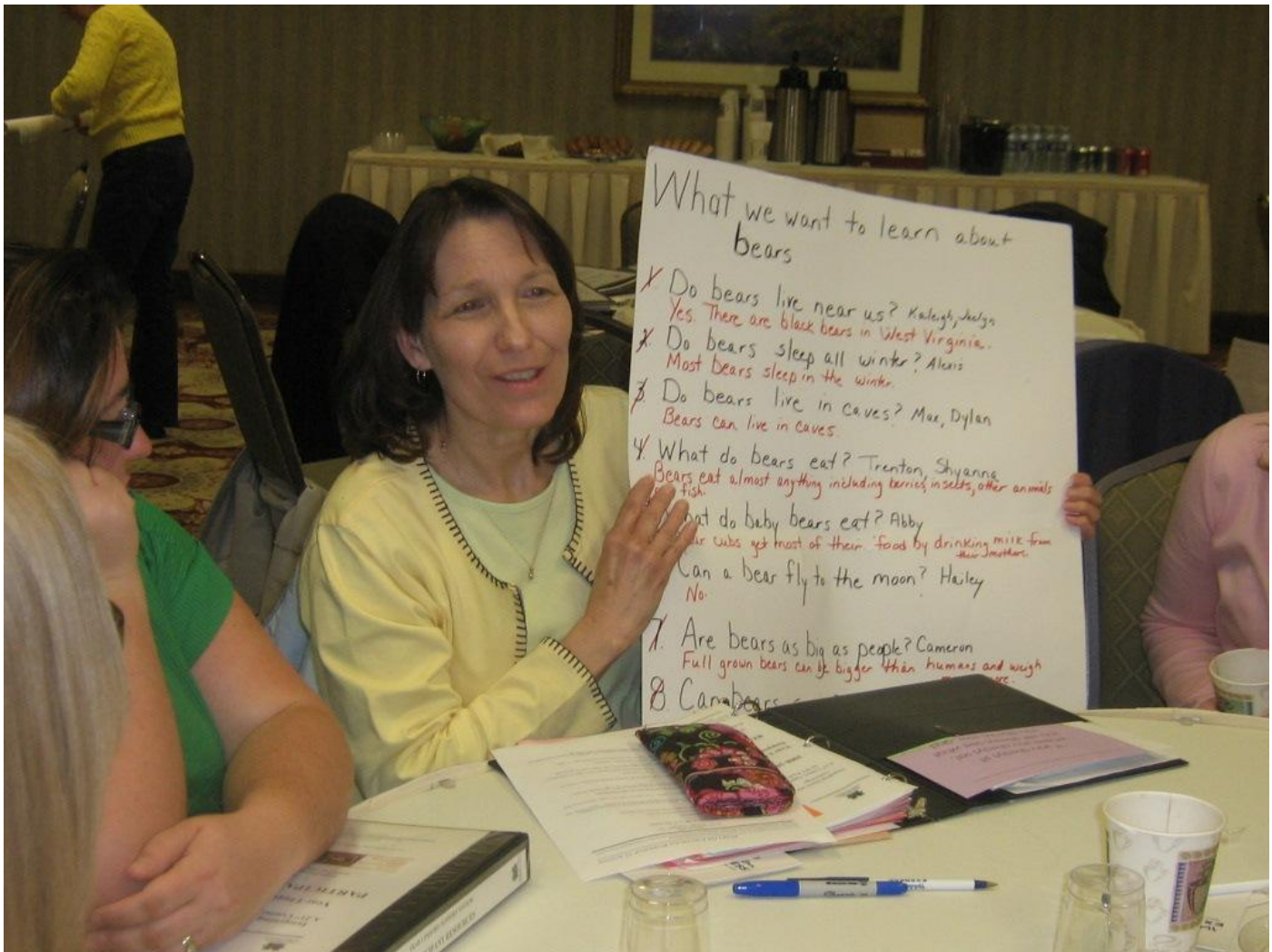


EARLY EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

1 John Marshall Drive . 302 Corbly Hall . Huntington, WV 25755 . (304) 696-6301 . www.marshall.edu/coehs/mueeop

Volume I, Number 2

Spring 2009 Newsletter



The MUEEOP is a service program of the Marshall University
College of Education and Human Services.

From the Director



**Monica DellaMea,
MUEEOP Director**

As the warm weather of Spring and Summer quickly approaches, the MUEEOP continues its mission of providing pre-k educators with many professional development opportunities which will take us into the next school year. We are currently working with pre-k educators from eleven WV counties and their collaborative partners as they conclude the 2008-2009 Inquiry Support System Year I and Year II Programs. The ISS Participants have learned a great deal about how to successfully integrate 21st Century learning opportunities into their existing curricular frameworks. Year II Participants have also learned about how to integrate the Project Approach and advanced technology strategies into their classrooms over the past year.

Moreover, the MUEEOP has embarked on a Differentiated Instruction Professional Development Pilot to provide pre-k educators with individualized training workshops based on their unique professional development needs. More information will be available regarding this exciting program in the coming months. Be sure to check the MUEEOP website for updates (www.marshall.edu/coehs/mueeop).

The opportunities provided by the MUEEOP are designed to ultimately benefit the children of WV and help provide them with the critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to succeed in today and tomorrow's society.

As always, I encourage you to take a few moments to review this newsletter to learn more about the exciting work Outreach participants from throughout the State are achieving as they aim to offer high-quality, inquiry-based 21st Century learning experiences for the children they serve.

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****NOTE:** The parents of all children represented in this newsletter have provided consent for their child's photos to be utilized by the MUEEOP.

On the cover:

Janet Buckman, Year I ISS Pre-K educator from Jane Lew Elementary School in Lewis County, WV shares an example of inquiry-based learning in a small-group sharing session held during the March 2009 Year I Follow Up Workshop #3.

2008-2009 Year One Inquiry Support System

Utilizing Current Research to Reflect on Classroom Practices: Photos from recent Year I ISS learning community meetings and follow-up workshops (February and March 2009)



Suzanne Peters, Putnam County WV Pre-K educator, shares findings from small group work during the February 6, 2009 Learning Community Meeting for Year I Inquiry Support System participants.



The Year I Follow-Up Workshop #3 provided participants the opportunity to share documentation completed with children which demonstrated evidence of inquiry-based learning. In this photo Gail Ronat, Pre-K educator from Alderson Pre-K/Head Start (Greenbrier County, WV) shares a web children completed based a topic of interest which focused on their home town.



As Putnam County Pre-K Instructional Coach, Angela Lipinski looks on, Buffalo Elementary Pre-K educator, Pamela Smith, shares her impressions of one of the research articles discussed during the March 20, 2009 Year I Follow-Up Workshop #3.



Summers County Pre-K educator Cathy Shank (Hinton Area Elementary) writes her own comments about an inquiry-based research article which was then discussed in her learning community during the Summers County Learning Community meeting #3, held in March 2009.

2008-2009 Year One Inquiry Support System

Reflection and Intentionality in Early Childhood Education= 21st Century Learning for Children and Educators

The Inquiry Support System was designed in part to help Pre-K educators learn to reflect, think critically, develop positive dispositions to learning, and become intentional in their teaching.

Year I ISS Participants were recently asked to write a reflection relating their own practices to the principles presented in the article entitled “Twelve characteristics of effective early childhood teachers,” by Colker, L.J. (2008). *Beyond the Journal: Young Children on the Web*, 3/08, pp. 1-6.

As a result of this reflective activity, many ISS Participants indicated that when they become excited about learning and can engage in the above processes, they are more likely to facilitate these same ideas for the children they serve! Below are just some of the comments ISS Participants provided in their reflections (used with their permission):

“Passion is not just the passion to teach. It is having the passion to learn alongside that child. It means to be persistent in making sure each child is learning in a way that is meaningful to them, making sure your environment is what it should be everyday, and being passionate about learning!”

“I do feel the experience of the ISS system has helped me with planning and even bringing me more enthusiasm in the classroom. Every time I come back to the classroom from a meeting I have something new that I want to try with the students. It is definitely a great thing!”

“I love children and I love providing an environment where they can thrive and learn at their own speed and in their own way. I love to see the look on their faces when they discover something new and realize they accomplished something all by themselves. Helping children become independent—I love it! I wouldn’t dream of being anything else other than an early childhood educator.”

“This program has definitely had an incredible impact on the way I look at teaching. Throughout the years my love of teaching has continued to grow; however, I look back now and see that I did seem to be falling into the “cookie cutter crafts and skill focused teaching” mode. I have had a very exciting year and have been impressed by the creativity of my class and certain children. I look forward to continuing to broaden my knowledge on how I can take what I am learning through this process and apply it to make my classroom a place where children learn to explore and build a strong foundation that will support them throughout their lifetime.”

2008-2009 Year Two Inquiry Support System

Spring 2009 Projects Demonstrate In-Depth Investigation, 21st Century Learning for Pre-K Children

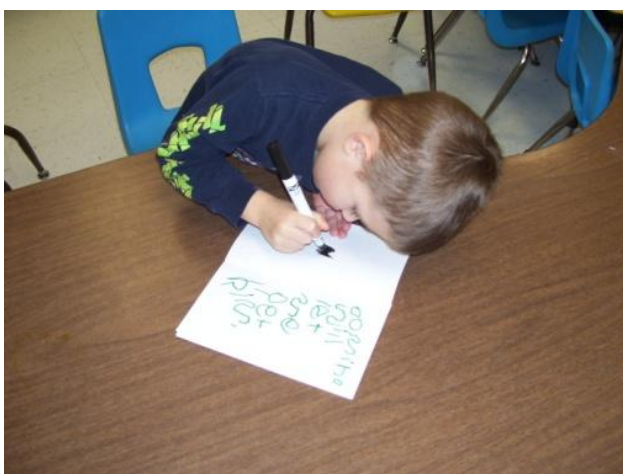
Participants in the Year II Inquiry Support System are currently in the process of submitting the Project-based work the children in their classrooms have completed over the past months. Below are just a few of the many examples of how the Project Approach has impacted children's learning.



Children at Dingess Pre-K/Head Start in Mingo County, WV, experience a visit from a local bee keeper to help answer some of the questions posed during their recent investigation of bees. Some of the questions the children wanted to find answers to include: What makes bees so busy? Why do they sting us? How do they make honey? Special thanks to Tammy Smith, Pre-K Educator and Year II ISS Participant, for sharing this photo.



The Plant Project, conducted by children at COA Pre-K in Roane County, WV, is still underway as the weather becomes warmer. The children's initial interest sparked when they began engaging in conversations about planting seeds in the soil. This project is taking place at COA Pre-K in Roane County, WV with the guidance of Dianna Baker, Pre-K Educator and Year II ISS Participant.



A child at Lizemore Elementary School Pre-K in Clay County, WV makes his own book based on the investigation he and a group of his peers conducted during the recent "Puppy Project" in their classroom. Children's misconceptions about puppies initiated their in-depth study, which lead to self-directed learning opportunities to provide clarification and much additional information about puppies. Thanks to Teresa Huffman, Pre-K Educator and Year II ISS Participant, for sharing this photo.



Many of the children in Darlene Richards' and Liz Ragan's Pre-K classroom at Road Branch Grade School in Wyoming County, WV recently concluded in investigation of instruments. The project began when children wanted to take their own classroom instruments outside to march and play. The photo above, provided by Darlene and Liz, was taken after high school band students brought in their own instruments and answered the children's questions such as what it was like to play an instrument and play in a marching band, and how their instruments made music.

2008-2009 Year Two Inquiry Support System

Photos from February 2009 Year Two Follow-Up Workshops



Pre-K educators Kathy Riggs, Coalfield CAP Head Start (McDowell County, WV) and Barbara Dorsey, Appalachian Council Head Start (Clay County, WV) participate in a reflective dialogue activity during their February 13, 2009 Year II Inquiry Support System Follow Up Workshop.



MUEEOP Director Monica DellaMea works with a group of Boone County, WV Pre-K educators during their February 13, 2009 Year II Inquiry Support System Follow Up Workshop. Anticipatory planning for Spring 2009 projects served as a focus of the workshop.

Be sure to access the MUEEOP website (www.marshall.edu/coehs/mueeop) for in-depth documentation of Year Two Projects as well as additional information about the services offered through the MUEEOP.



Bridgett Blevins (Gilbert Elem. Pre-K/Head Start) and Tamra Farley (Lenore Pre-K/Head Start) participate in a brainstorming session to help disseminate potential Projects from daily experiences during their recent Year II ISS Workshop, held February 20, 2009 in Williamson, WV.



Gilbert Elementary (Mingo County, WV) Pre-K/Head Start educators Judy Starr and Deena Surber, brainstorm during the round-table anticipatory planning session at their recent Year II Follow-Up Workshop.

Upcoming Events Calendar

This timeline highlights upcoming MUEEOP events for May-August 2009

2009	May	15	ISS YEAR I: Follow-Up Workshop # 4/ ISS Recognition Ceremony <i>(Holiday Inn Express Civic Center~Charleston, WV 9 am-12:30 pm)</i>
		15	ISS YEAR II: Deadline for Spring 2009 Project Work (4 sections submitted electronically) 1. Pictorial diary 2. Phase chart 3. One-page synopsis 4. Assessment Plan
		19	Tentative: Boone County ISS Year II Board of Education Presentation <i>(Boone Co. BOE~Madison, WV 7:00 pm)</i>
	June	2	Mingo County ISS Year II Board of Education Presentation <i>(Mingo Co. BOE~Williamson, WV 6:00 pm)</i>
		TBA	Roane County ISS Year II Board of Education Presentation <i>(Roane Co. BOE~Spencer, WV Time TBA)</i>
		TBA	Additional ISS Year II Board of Education/Head Start Presentations <i>(Locations and Times TBA)</i>
		18	2009-2010 ISS Year I Summer Institute Participant Packets Mailed
		TBA	Strategic Planning with Counties/Agencies for Differentiated Instruction PD Program
	July	10	2009-2010 ISS Year II Summer Institute Participant Packets Mailed
		Week of July 20	McDowell Co. Summer Institute Workshop <i>(Beckley, WV Time TBA)</i>
		28-30	ISS Year I Summer Institute <i>(Marshall University~Huntington Campus 8:00 am-4:00 pm each day)</i>
		TBA	Strategic Planning with Counties/Agencies for Differentiated Instruction PD Program
	August	10-11	ISS Year II Summer Institute <i>(Marshall University~Huntington Campus 8:00 am-4:00 pm each day)</i>
		TBA	Strategic Planning with Counties/Agencies for Differentiated Instruction PD Program

Preparing to Construct a Playhouse



Children at Reedy Elementary in Roane County, WV have been investigating how to develop plans and documentation needed to construct a playhouse for their classroom as part of their House Project. Thanks to Barbara Phares, Pre-K Educator for sharing this photo.

Introducing:
***Differentiated Instruction Professional Development for WV Pre-K Educators—
A Workshop Series Designed to Provide Individualization Based
on the Unique Needs of Professional Educators***

The MUEEOP has embarked on the development of a workshop series which will be piloted during the 2009-2010 school year to provide pre-k educators with individualized professional development. More information will become available in the coming months about how county/agency administrators can utilize this service to provide their pre-k educators with differentiated instruction professional development options. Depending on the unique needs of potential participants, each workshop can be ½ or a full day. A per participant fee will apply for all workshops.

Workshops will typically be limited to 25 participants per session and offered on Fridays (though accommodations can be made for programs as necessary). Workshops will be offered regionally and arranged in advance so county/agency programs can plan for participants to attend.

A comprehensive menu of workshops has been developed to provide multiple professional development options.

For additional information about the menu of workshops and possible participation in the Professional Development Workshop Series, please contact the MUEEOP.



It must be remembered that the purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts... it is to teach them to think and always to think for themselves.
--Robert Hutchins

Preparation and General Information for the 2009-2010 MUEEOP Inquiry Support System (Year I and Year II)

Preparations for the 2009-2010 MUEEOP Inquiry Support System have begun. Interested administrators are encouraged to contact the MUEEOP director, Monica DellaMea, at dellame2@marshall.edu or phone (304) 696-6301.

General information about the Year I and Year II Inquiry Support System follows:

Inquiry Support System Year I—10 months of sustained professional development designed to assist educators as they learn to implement 21st Century, inquiry-based learning into their classrooms

Components:

Summer professional development institute (July 28-30, 2009 at Marshall University)

Four Follow-Up Workshops during the school year

Three Learning Community Meetings during the school year

Online support through an interactive forum

Administrator/ECERS-R Evaluator components

Principal's workshop

Individualized assistance as needed

Opportunities to earn staff development credit through MU (up to 6 hours) OR the opportunity to earn 3 hours of letter-graded credit

All participants receive:

A digital camera, memory card, battery charger, and carrying case

Hands-on training to assist with integration of the digital camera into the classroom

Content Module to assist with implementation of 21st Century, inquiry-based learning

Participant Resources Notebook

Strategic Plan

Tote Bag

County/Agency Sponsorship Per Participant for Year I: \$400

There is no charge for administrators to attend the ISS institute, workshops, or meetings.

Additional camera packs are available for \$135 each.

Inquiry Support System Year II—10 months of sustained professional development designed for Pre-K educators who excelled in the Year I ISS process

Components

Summer professional development institute (August 10-11, 2009 at Marshall University)

Two Follow-Up Workshops during the school year

Online support through an interactive forum

Individualized assistance as needed

Opportunities to earn staff development credit through MU (up to 3 hours)

All participants receive:

A digital camera, memory card, battery charger, and carrying case

Hands-on training to assist with integration of the digital camera into the classroom

Content Module to assist with implementation of 21st Century, inquiry-based learning and the Project Approach

Textbook: Young Investigators: The Project Approach

Strategic Plan

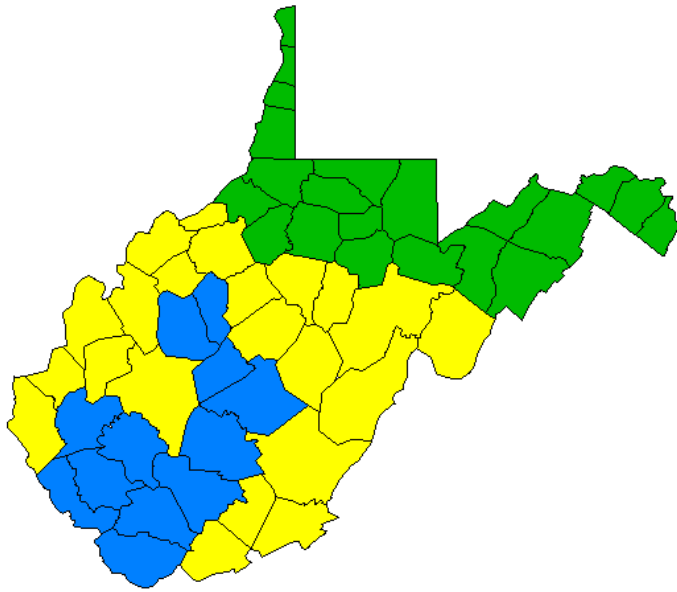
Tote Bag

County/Agency Sponsorship Per Participant for Year I: \$400

There is no charge for administrators to attend the ISS institute or workshops.

Additional camera packs are available for \$135 each.

MUEEOP ISS Strategic Plan



MUEEOP Phases:

- Phase I (2006 – 2008)
- Phase II (2008 – 2010)
- Phase III (2010 – 2012)

◆ **Phase I Counties:**

Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh, Roane, Wyoming

◆ **Phase II Counties:**

Braxton, Cabell, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lewis, Mason, Mercer, Monroe, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Putnam, Randolph, Ritchie, Summers, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wirt, Wood

◆ **Phase III Counties:**

Barbour, Berkeley, Brooke, Doddridge, Grant, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Marion, Marshall, Mineral, Monongalia, Morgan, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Wetzel

Special Recognition

The MUEEOP would like to provide a very special thank you to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation for its generous award which provides funding for implementation of the Inquiry Support System professional development model. The Benedum Foundation is a philanthropic agency serving Southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia. For more information about the Benedum Foundation, please visit www.benedum.org to learn about the meaningful projects they support in our region.

Additionally, the Program thanks participating County School Systems and their collaborative Head Start agencies for additional sponsorship which makes the program possible. Financial support from the Benedum Foundation and participating agencies has resulted in the formation of numerous partnerships with WV County school systems and their collaborative agencies. Since the Program's initial Benedum funding in July 2006, the Outreach ISS professional development program has served pre-k educators and administrators from the following counties/agencies:

Boone County Schools
Clay County Schools
Greenbrier County Schools
Lincoln County Schools
Lewis County Schools
Logan County Schools
McDowell County Schools

Mingo County Schools
Nicholas County Schools
Putnam County Schools
Roane County Schools
Wyoming County Schools
Appalachian Council Head Start
CASE WV Head Start

CDI Head Start
Coalfield Com. Action Head Start
Southwestern Com. Action Head Start