



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 1

Winter 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**

Winter greetings from the Marshall University Early Education Outreach Program (MUEEOP)! I am happy to share this inaugural issue of the MUEEOP newsletter with all those affiliated with the MUEEOP and the Inquiry Support System professional development model. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide current and upcoming Program news to past, present, and potential Outreach Program participants, their administrators, and other early childhood professionals throughout West Virginia. Please 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.

In this issue:

ISS Year I Inquiry Support System Updates.....	3-5
ISS Year II Inquiry Support System Updates.....	6-8
Upcoming Events Calendar.....	9
Preparing for the 2009-2010 Inquiry Support System.....	10

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

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	Mingo County Schools	CDI Head Start
Clay County Schools	Nicholas County Schools	Coalfield Com. Action Head Start
Greenbrier County Schools	Putnam County Schools	Southwestern Com. Action Head Start
Lincoln County Schools	Roane County Schools	
Lewis County Schools	Wyoming County Schools	
Logan County Schools	Appalachian Council Head Start	
McDowell County Schools	CASE WV Head Start	

On the cover: Darlene Richards and Liz Ragan, Year II ISS Pre-K educators from Wyoming County, WV, participate in an anticipatory planning session during their October 2008 Follow-Up Workshop.

2008-2009 Year One Inquiry Support System

2008-2009 Year One Participants at-a-glance			
<i>County/Agency</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Administrators</i>	<i>Approx. Children Served</i> <small>(based on # of classrooms x avg. of 20 children per/classroom/session)</small>
Greenbrier County	2	1	20
Lewis County	1	1	20
Putnam County/ Appalachian Council H.S.	22	5	200
Summers County/ Case WV H.S.	12	1	120
TOTALS:	37	8	360

April Carter, Kim Harper, and Stephanie Roush, Year One ISS participants, engage in a small-group collaboration circle during a recent follow-up workshop. Follow-up workshops allow the participants with time to reflect upon integration of inquiry-based, 21st Century learning strategies into their classrooms. The workshops also reinforce fundamentals of the inquiry-based approach through interactive sessions, which include both small- and whole-group dialogue and review of materials.

The follow-up workshops are just one of the many components included in the Inquiry Support System. Other elements of the Year One Inquiry Support System include, but are not limited to:

- Summer professional development institute*
- Learning community meetings*
- 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)*

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*



2008-2009 Year One Inquiry Support System

Collaboration and Reflection Serve as Key Factors for Sustained Success:

Photos from the Year One Follow Up Workshop #1—October 31, 2008 at the MU Graduate College in South Charleston, WV



Hollow Blocks Lead to Opportunities for 21st Century Learning

Hollow blocks can contribute to the utilization of many 21st Century skills at the pre-k level, such as social competency, problem solving, collaboration, and self-directed learning. Additionally, hollow block play can heighten children's scientific and critical thinking skills, and provide increased opportunities for development in each of the domains identified in the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework.



Special thanks to Ms. Kim Harper, Putnam County Pre-K Educator at Stepping Stones Academy, for sharing the above photos of children utilizing the hollow blocks recently purchased for her classroom.

2008-2009 Year One Inquiry Support System

Comments from the field...

Year One ISS participants from Summers and Greenbrier Counties recently completed their first progress reports, which provided them the opportunity to reflect upon the adaptations they've made to their classrooms and personal teaching philosophies since beginning the ISS program. Here are some responses participants shared when they were asked to identify ways they have adapted their teaching philosophy/classroom practices/ environment/guidance techniques, etc... to incorporate 21st Century, inquiry-based experiences into their classrooms:

"Students are more involved in the planning process."

"(We use) open-ended questions and facilitate more than teacher-directed instruction for problem solving."

"(We) encourage the use of the digital camera by the children, display children's printed pictures, and individualize children's folders on the computer desktop."

"Children were given the digital camera to use as a tool and have become very comfortable using it."

"(Having) meaningful discussions based on children's questions."

"We have more practical uses of our computer—fewer 'games' and more 'real-world' applications, such as looking at photographs, doing research on the Internet, etc. Also use of the camera by the children and then children put the photos in their own folders which they can then be view by others as well."

"I personally have become more relaxed and have allowed children to have more input in the classroom. I have enjoyed this experience so much. It's so nice to finally be given an approach that increases the effectiveness of our teaching..."



Children at Talcott Elementary (Summers County) engage in problem solving as they create a block structure in their classroom. Thanks to Ms. Jamie Wykle, Year One ISS participant, for sharing this photo.

2008-2009 Year Two Inquiry Support System

2008-2009 Year Two Participants at-a-glance			
<i>County/Agency</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Administrators</i>	<i>Approx. Children Served</i> <small>(based on # of classrooms x avg. of 20 children per/classroom/session)</small>
Boone County	16	2	260
Clay County	4	1	80
Logan County	1	1	20
McDowell County	5	1	100
Mingo County	25	1	240
Roane County	6	2	120
Wyoming County	22	2	240
TOTALS:	79	10	1,060

Project Approach: Promoting Children’s In-Depth Investigations

In order to assist Pre-K educators in providing 21st Century, inquiry-based experiences into their classrooms, the Year Two Inquiry Support System offers participants sustained support for advanced technology integration as well as integration of Projects into their classrooms. Participants learn about the *process* of implementing Projects as an enhancement to their existing curricular framework. They are then encouraged to facilitate a minimum of two Projects in their classrooms during the school year—one in the Fall and the other in the Spring. Project work supports the integration of critical 21st Century skills at the pre-k level, which include:

Social competency
Problem solving and critical thinking
Curiosity and creativity
Interactive communication
Integrating technology and literacy
Self-directed learning
Collaboration
Scientific inquiry
Self-reflection
Effective use of real-world tools

Many participants have worked hard to submit documentation of their classroom projects to share with the Pre-K community. Each Year Two ISS classroom was asked to submit the following project documentation for Fall 2008:

One-Page Project Synopsis
One-Page Phase Chart
Pictorial Diary
Project Assessment Plan

The Year Two participant projects are currently being posted to the MUEEOP website: (www.marshall.edu/coehs/mueeop). Please access the website to view examples from the field which demonstrate children’s investigations and 21st Century learning experiences through implementation of the Project Approach.

2008-2009 Year Two Inquiry Support System

The Project Approach: Examples from Year Two ISS Classrooms

Be sure to access the MUEEOP website (www.marshall.edu/coehs/mueeop) for in-depth documentation of Year Two Fall 2008 Projects (coming late January 2009).

Here are but a few sample photos taken from the many Projects participants from each county have submitted:



The Dog Project



The Snake Project



The Fire Truck Project



The Bee Project



The Spider Project



The Cat Project

2008-2009 Year Two Inquiry Support System

Photos from October 2008 Year Two Follow-Up Workshops



**Participation in Follow-Up Workshops Can Lead To:
Collaboration~Interactive Communication~Problem Solving~Critical Thinking~Self Reflection =
21st Century Learning for WV Pre-K Educators**



Quote recently shared with Year Two ISS Participants:

“Do you realize how hard it is to teach without telling the answers? Project work makes *you* think, because you have to keep thinking to keep from giving them the answers!”

~Dot Schuler, personal communication, May 5, 1998
Cited in Clark, A. (2008). Changing classroom practice to include the Project Approach. <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v8n2/clark.html>.

Upcoming Events Calendar

This timeline highlights upcoming ISS events through June 2009:

****Adjustments will be made in the event of school cancellations due to weather.****

ITEMS IN BLUE=YEAR I INQUIRY SUPPORT SYSTEM

ITEMS IN RED=YEAR II INQUIRY SUPPORT SYSTEM

ITEMS IN BLACK=YEAR I AND YEAR II INQUIRY SUPPORT SYSTEM

2009	January	20	Deadline for Applications: 2009-2010 Year I and Year II Inquiry Support System (Contact MUEEOP Director for details.)
		30	ISS YEAR I: Submission deadline for January postings to online forum (based on reflective article distributed during Follow Up Workshop #2-- Assignment details will be provided during the second week of January.)
	February	6	ISS YEAR I: Learning Community Meeting (Putnam Co./App. Council Head Start Putnam Co. BOE 9 am – 3 pm)
		13 (TENTATIVE)	ISS YEAR II: Follow-Up Workshop #2-- (Marshall University Graduate College Charleston Campus 9 am – 12 pm)
		13 (TENTATIVE)	ISS YEAR II: Follow-Up Workshop #2-- (Repeat of Morning Session) (Marshall University Graduate College Charleston Campus 12 pm – 3 pm)
		20	ISS YEAR II: Follow-Up Workshop #2-- (Mingo County BOE Conference Room, 1-4 pm)
	March	20	ISS YEAR I: Follow-up Workshop # 3 (Holiday Inn Express Civic Center~Charleston, WV 9 am – 12 pm)
		20	ISS YEAR I: Learning Community Meeting (Summers/Greenbrier/Lewis Counties Holiday Inn Express 12 pm-3 pm)
		27	2009-2010 ISS Participant Acceptance Letters Distributed
	April	16	ISS YEAR II: Rough Drafts for Spring 2009 Project Work Submissions
		10	Deadline for Spring 2009 Staff Development Course Credit Payment (Make checks payable to Marshall University; mail to MUEEOP Office for processing.)
		30	ISS YEAR I: Progress Reports /External Assignments and Reflections Due (Assignment details will be provided during Follow Up Workshop #3.)
	May	15	ISS YEAR I: Follow-Up Workshop # 4/ ISS Recognition Ceremony (Holiday Inn Express Civic Center~Charleston, WV 9 am-12:30 pm)
		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
		TBA	ISS YEAR II: Presentations to County Boards of Education (or Head Start Agency Administrators)
June	TBA	ISS YEAR II: Presentations to County Boards of Education (or Head Start Agency Administrators)	

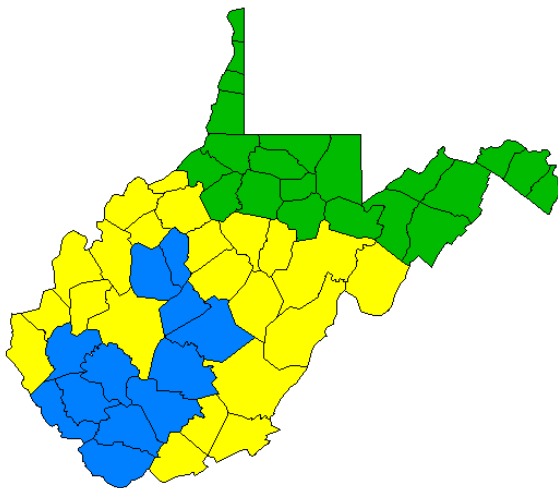
2009-2010 Inquiry Support System Preparation

Although it is hard to believe, preparations for the 2009-2010 ISS Program are already in full swing. The application process has begun and administrators are encouraged to return applications as soon as possible.

Here is some general information regarding preparation for the 2009-2010 ISS:

- Application packets for the 2009-2010 ISS were distributed to all eligible county/agency administrators in November 2008. Please see the MUEEOP's ISS Strategic Plan (below) for a list of eligible counties.
- If you did not receive an application packet, please contact the MUEEOP office for more information.
- Current and/or potential pre-k educators should contact their county/agency supervisor if interested in participation.
- Applications for the 2009-2010 ISS professional development programs (Year One and Year Two) are due by Tuesday, January 20, 2009. **Extensions may be available.
- Counties/agencies currently participating in Year Two should contact the MUEEOP Director, Monica DellaMea, to discuss options for sustained professional development within their own programs if interested in future collaboration. DellaMea can be reached at (304) 696-6301 or dellame2@marshall.edu.
- You may also choose to visit www.marshall.edu/coehs/mueeop for additional Program information.

MUEEOP ISS Strategic Plan



<i>MUEEOP Phases:</i>	
■	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