Dr. Carol Smith, of the Counseling Department, led a group of Chi Sigma Iota Master’s level honors students in a partnership with Margaret Miller of West Virginia Public Broadcasting to create a discussion guide for *The First 1,000 Days: Investing in WV Kids When it Counts*, produced by John Nakashima. Website: [http://wvpublic.org/1000-days](http://wvpublic.org/1000-days)

*The First 1,000 Days* is a documentary on the effects of childhood poverty in the first 1,000 days of life, highlighting early childhood programs that work. Documentary link: [http://video.wvpublic.org/video/2365416014/](http://video.wvpublic.org/video/2365416014/)

West Virginia has a number of effective programs, but they are not available in all counties, including the counties hardest hit by poverty. Four students, Lisa Otten, Lea Larch, Anthony Arthur, and Elena Goldblum worked with Dr. Smith to generate a list of discussion questions for the documentary. The discussion questions facilitate next steps on establishing the need for and motivation for state Legislative support for these programs that work. Discussion guide link: [http://wvpublic.org/start-conversation-discussion-guide-first-1000-days](http://wvpublic.org/start-conversation-discussion-guide-first-1000-days)

This collaborative effort supports the work of Our Children Our Future’s 2015 campaign to end childhood poverty in West Virginia.

Dr. Smith took two graduate Counseling Students (Samantha Beckelhimer and Lisa Otten) and a Counseling graduate (Tenikka Phillips) to represent the West Virginia Counseling Association at the Kids and Families Legislative Day at the West Virginia State Legislature. The Kids and Families Day was the kickoff event for the Our Children Our Future 2015 platform to end childhood poverty in West Virginia. The *First 1,000 Days* documentary was premiered at the Kids and Families Day. For more information about how to get involved in this worthy legislative campaign, see: [http://wvhealthykids.org/](http://wvhealthykids.org/)

To learn how you could sponsor a showing of the *First 1,000 Days* documentary and start the conversation in your community, see: [http://wvpublic.org/1000-days](http://wvpublic.org/1000-days)