

February 2010

Academic & ideas

issues *ideas*

Notes from the Wichita State University
Office of Academic Affairs and Research



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WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE, MATH *And the nation's future*

President Obama recently announced an initiative to increase the number and quality of science and math teachers produced by American colleges and universities. The initiative is a partnership between the U. S. government, business and private foundations. The goal is to boost America back into the lead in science and math education by training 100,000 new teachers in the next five years. Wichita State University is very much a part of this national initiative.

WSU's participation

More than 120 public research universities and state university systems have joined an initiative of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) to increase the number of science and math teachers produced by university colleges of education.

Wichita State University was an original collaborator in the program, which is called Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative (SMTI).

Late last year, President Beggs joined 75 other public research university CEOs in signing a letter to President Obama that pledged efforts to meet the goal of doubling the number of science and math teachers prepared in the coming half decade.

Under the leadership of Dean Sharon Iorio and the faculty of the College of

Education, we are well on our way to meeting that goal. Why is it important for Wichita State University to be involved in this national initiative?

In his comments at a White House ceremony

(attended by KU Chancellor Grey-Little), President Obama emphasized what educators have known for years: student success in math and science is related to good teaching and the number of primary and secondary science teachers in America is declining.

Leadership in science education has always been a point of pride of American public education. But, in



**Education Dean
Sharon Iorio**

For you at WSU: Ulrich Museum Gordon Parks exhibition
through April 11. Call 978-3664. <http://ulrich.wichita.edu>



Athletic Director Sexton

Athletic Director, Dean, in broadcasts of Wichita State & The World

Athletic Director Eric Sexton and Business Dean Douglas Hensler are featured on January and February broadcasts on WSU-TV, Channel 13 on Cox Cable. Provost Gary L. Miller interviews them in separate episodes. Remaining shows with Eric Sexton will air:

- Friday, Jan. 29, 1 a.m.
- Monday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 2, 3 p.m.

The show with Dean Douglas Hensler will debut at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4 and repeat at the following times:



Dean Hensler

- Friday, Feb. 5, 1 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 8, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9, 3 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 12, 1 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 15, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 16, 3 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 19, 1 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 22, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 23, 3 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 25, 8 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 26, 1 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m.

Learn More on the web

TEACHER EDUCATION AT WSU

[HTTP://BIT.LY/51MHEA](http://bit.ly/51MHEA)

\$6 MILLION GRANT TO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

[HTTP://BIT.LY/5PRDHO](http://bit.ly/5PRDHO)

recent years the country has fallen behind.

Effective collaborations

For those of us who serve large urban areas, the opportunity to partner in national initiatives is an important way for us to be more effective in our collaborations with local public schools.

The way we interact with USD 259, the largest school district in Kansas and one of the largest in the Midwest, is a measure of our commitment to our mission as the only urban serving research university in the state.

A recent \$6 million dollar grant from the U. S. Department of Education (see story below) is a partnership between the WSU College of Education and USD 259. The success in winning this grant results from our participation as a leader in the national discussion.

WSU on a national stage

Our participation in the national discussion regarding math and science education is one of many national collaborations of the faculty and administration at Wichita State.

We are the clear leader in areas of aviation research through the activities of the National Institute for Aviation Research. The Regional Institute on Aging is led by a scientist who served for many years as a program director at the National Institutes of Health. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is one of the nation's leading departments.

Faculty members in many academic departments sit on national editorial boards and serve as officers in national organizations that drive thinking on key issues in higher education.

Many faculty and administrators serve as visiting team members for accreditation of universities and university programs.

For research universities like Wichita State, engagement means good teaching, strong research and local partnerships. It also means being a full participant in the entire enterprise of higher education. We are proud of this participation.

Gary L. Miller

Federal teacher preparation grant

The 5-year, \$6+ million grant from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) is for a program that advances teacher preparation for urban education.

Funds for development of the Urban Teacher Preparation Program (UTTP) at WSU come from the DOE's teacher quality partnerships grant program.

This grant will transform teacher education at WSU," said Dean Sharon Iorio, project director for the UTTP.

Addressing the growing need for specially trained teachers in urban school districts such as Wichita's, the grant will help WSU partner with Wichita Public Schools and its early childhood education partners at The Opportunity Project and possibly another local agency to provide high quality, integrative, comprehensive preparation for urban education.

For you at WSU: Guitarist Craig Owens, Faculty Artist Series opening program, Feb. 7 at 3 p.m. Wiedemann Hall, 978-3233.