From the OEP

This past weekend, the OEP was fortunate to participate in the First Annual Science Education Summit. Dr. Bill McComas, the Parks Family Professor of Science Education at the University of Arkansas, hosted the event at Petite Jean Mountain. Education leaders from around the state spent the beautiful Saturday discussing science issues in Arkansas. Several issues were brought to the surface – such as the lack of depth in the Arkansas Science Frameworks – and the participants plan to create a paper summarizing those topics addressed. Dr. McComas had the idea to meet with interested educators around the state for some time now, and his plan was successfully fulfilled this weekend. Based on the feedback from participants, this is not a one-time event and there were hopes that future meetings will be held. We will be sure to share the paper with you when it is released. Thanks to Dr. McComas for allowing the OEP to be involved and for leading a productive day!

We are currently working on the next section of the OEP Awards and will highlight top Arkansas high schools next week.

We’ve highlighted some news below, but you can always find more stories on our In the News section online.

News from Around the Natural State

Regional Finalists for 2010 Arkansas Teacher of the Year
The 2010 regional finalists for Arkansas Teacher of the Year have been announced and posted on the Arkansas Department of Education website.

A Conference on Teaching and Learning through Arts and Literacy Integration
Save the Date! On February 19, 2010 the Center for Children and Youth and the Brown Chair in English Literacy at the University of Arkansas will host a day-long conference on improving teaching and learning through integration of the arts and literacy. The conference will be held at the Jones Center for Families in Springdale, AR. A $10 registration fee will cover all materials and lunch. Professional development credits will also be available. Carol Jago, president-elect of the National Council of Teachers of English, has been invited as a featured speaker. Presenters will include artists and teachers from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Temple University, Crystal Bridges Museum for American Art, the Walton Arts Center, Trike Theater, the Northwest Arkansas Writing Project, and local communities and schools. Complete registration will be available soon. For more information, contact David Jolliffe, Brown Chair in English Literacy, at djollif@uark.edu
News from Around the Nation

Students Held Back Did Better
A long-awaited study analyzing the Bloomberg administration’s student-promotion policy says that fifth graders who were held back did better in subsequent years, and that specialized instruction for struggling students showed moderate success.

Experts, Public Weigh in on Common Tests
As 48 states charge ahead with plans to adopt common academic standards, the U.S. Department of Education will enlist experts and the public to help design a $350 million competition for the next step: the development of common tests.

Site Seeing

Public Agenda and Learning Point Associates have released a new study called Teaching for a Living: How Teachers See the Profession Today. The survey explored questions such as: How do teachers see their profession? Why do people become teachers, what are their frustrations, and what reforms do they think would improve their work? Visit the link above to view the survey results.

Mark Your Calendar

October 27: Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) Annual Fall Conference, Double Tree Hotel in Little Rock
October 27: Public School Desegregation Lawsuit Resolution Task Force, Room 151 at State Capital
November 13: Lecture – Gary Compton, Bentonville Public Schools, Graduate Education Building at the University of Arkansas
February 19: A Conference on Teaching and Learning through Arts and Literacy Integration, Springdale (Contact David Jolliffe, Brown Chair in English Literacy at the University of Arkansas, at djollif@uark.edu for more information.)

More information is available on the OEP Calendar.

Final Thought

“Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.” – Abigail Adams

Thanks for reading! See you next week!
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If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please send an e-mail to oep@uark.edu.