Editors’ Note
Journal of the Effective Schools Project
"Passion and Well-Being: Driving Change for the Heart"

Dear Readers,

As teachers, our most important work remains the well-being of our students. This is the very purpose motivating real teachers to serve students in our care. The articles in volume XXII of JESP are filled with research and stories that serve as reminders of our purpose and passion to seek the betterment and well-being of others.

JESP welcomes a new coeditor to the journal, Dr. Robin Pate. We, Dr. Gentry and Dr. Pate, are excited to serve ESP schools and work with our fellow teachers in gathering quality articles for our readers. Dr. Pam Winn has served a year as our new ESP director. She has a letter to the ESP schools and readers of JESP concerning various projects and ideas to better serve ESP schools. She reviews the ESP year and provides ideas for us to consider as ESP continues to grow. Following our letter, Dr. Jordan Barkley, Dean of the College of Education at Tarleton, has a few words regarding his first year at Tarleton State University. He has joined our family and has an interest in continuing Tarleton’s partnership with ESP schools.

We have three Tarleton Stars recognized in this volume of JESP. We are proud of them. Look for Mrs. Jennifer Harrist, Mr. Victor Sauceda and Ms. Olivia Woods in the Tarleton Stars section. They are Tarleton teachers who are the finest examples of the science and art of teaching. Read their accomplishments and contributions to our profession.

We added a new section to the journal in 2014 entitled Student Research. We have changed the name to Student Service and Research to reflect the importance placed on service by ESP schools. This will continue to illustrate the importance of action research and service. We have one article in this area from a Tarleton graduate student, Elizabeth B. Christen-sen, who served with the Tarleton Equine Assisted Therapeutic Riding (TREAT Riding) program during the 2014 summer. Her article narrates her experiences and describes this humanitarian service at Tarleton State University by caring individuals. Please visit the TREAT website and learn more about their work: http://www.tarleton.edu/treat/.

The Book Shelf by Dr. Miller-Levy continues to be a favorite. Please visit her review of books concerning our theme for the 2015 journal—Passion and Well-Being: Driving Change from the Heart. The Journal of the Effective Schools Project (JESP) is also online. Readers are able to view all past articles (1992 to present) at JESP’s website http://www.tarleton.edu/esp/Journal/index.html. Once there, please click on the link—“View Copies of the Journal of the Effective Schools Project”. Also, we included a new way for authors to submit manuscripts and organize reviewers’ work. Please visit our new website site for authors and reviewers at http://thejesp.org.

The articles included in this volume (XXII—Passion and Well-Being: Driving Change from the Heart) provide a glimpse of how passion and placing the well-being of others is the heart of all ESP teachers. These educators work end-lessly with students seeking one thing—the WELL-BEING of students. We toil and work without recognition, yet we still toil in our fields with the hope our work will bear fruit. The articles provide more ideas and experiences to add to our toolbox as we go back to our fields yet again to do the GOOD WORK of TEACHING.

Sincerely,

James E. Gentry, Ed.D.
Robin Pate, Ph.D.
Journal of the Effective Schools Project
Tarleton State University
A Note from the Dean

Dear Readers,

Few deans find themselves fortunate enough to serve a college with such an organized and focused partnership with P-12 educators as Tarleton’s Effective Schools Project. While my campus interview was filled with the standard questions one would expect to be asked for such a position, I noticed a theme by the conclusion of day one: This faculty is truly dedicated to the importance of university and P-12 partnerships. When asked if I would be willing to continue supporting the work of ESP from the dean’s office, I offered the following reply, “Why would anyone come to Tarleton and discontinue ESP?” As I complete my first year as dean, I still ask myself that very question! All across the United States, colleges of education put together advisory committees and working groups to strategize ways to do what Tarleton’s College of Education has already done: Seamlessly connect a teacher preparation program to students, teachers, and administrators.

This year’s journal theme, Passion and Well-Being: Driving Change from the Heart, embodies the philosophy that serves as the foundation of our education programs. We aim to educate the “whole” student, and in doing so, we hope that we instill this desire in our graduates, resulting in the changing of P-12 landscapes. Until we ensure that every teacher understands that there’s more to teaching than being a subject matter specialist or an effective class-room manager, we cannot say that we have succeeded. Reaching every student, as diverse as they may be, is our charge and must be accepted. As Sharon Draper said, “No, there’s no such thing as ‘just a teacher.’ Teachers save lives on so many different levels. But we can’t teach them unless we reach them.”

We have made it our mission to use the ESP journal as a means to share teaching strategies, philosophies, and techniques from a myriad of teachers and classrooms. I hope that as you read through this year’s journal, you find something that sparks your interests; causes you to reflect on a student you’ve had or have now; or prompts you to delve further into changing your classroom environment. We shoulder an enormous responsibility, but none of us arrived, or will persist, in a classroom by ignoring responsibilities. We are the true change agents when we choose to be. So, here’s to another year of changing lives!

Best,

Jordan M. Barkley, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Education
A Note from the Director

Dear Readers:

In taking a moment to mentally review the 2014-2015 year of ESP events, I feel we achieved our goal to help inspire passion and learning as defined in this year’s theme: Passion and Well-Being: Driving Change from the Heart. I smile remembering being inspired by Kim Bearden to bring creativity to the classroom, challenged by Gigi Antoni to help students connect to content using the fine arts, and called to service by Jamie Volmer to share the success story of public education. In addition, a trip to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia was the icing on the cake and a life-changing experience. It is my hope that every child would get to experience an educational setting as innovative and inspiring as the Ron Clark Academy.

We wrapped up our ESP year with the annual ESP Planning retreat. Not only did we have a great time with Dr. Gentry’s imaginative games, but I was truly moved by the dedication and passion for education and learning as evidenced in the time spent by each campus in thoughtful planning at the retreat. Moreover, I was in awe of the creative ideas and strategies shared among campuses. In my opinion, the collaboration at the retreat is always one of the greatest benefits.

It is a great honor to work with so many passionate educators in a collaborative learning community, such as ESP, where it is our goal to inspire all educators to engage their confidence and competence to provide better education for all students. This year’s journal is focused on the success stories of many educators who are driving change from the heart. Enjoy! I look forward to the continuing excellence of ESP.

Sincerely,
Pam Winn, Ed.D., Director
Jim Boyd Effective Schools Project