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# MASS COALITION COURIER

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*Working Together to Produce Quality Teachers for Our Urban Schools'*

Volume 1, Issue 4

February 2001

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## Field Notes...

As I travel throughout the Coalition I often tell our members that I have the best job. Well, I'm not bragging for myself but for the big picture of the Coalition that I get to see which shows committed, hard-working members with innovative ideas making real change in the structure of teacher education. I truly enjoy hearing the plans of each partnership then visiting our members as plans are put into action. Particularly exciting is hearing one partnership's idea at a conference or meeting then watching as other partnerships talk about how they can put the idea into action. Always, when I encounter an idea I want to learn more about, partners enthusiastically enlighten me and are willing to share their progress with me and others in the Coalition.

Several times I've been asked: Do other partnerships do it this way? Do other teacher education programs look like this? How have other schools confronted this problem? This tells me that our members want to see the big picture, too. In this issue of the Courier I'd like to present the work of each partner as it related to Objective One so that each of you may know the depth of the Coalition's work. From time to time I'll present the work on other objectives and I hope you'll appreciate as much as I do the value of each partnership as well as the Coalition as a whole. Happy Reading,

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Increase the participation of Arts and Sciences  
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**Photo, top left:**  
Working at the  
Dever School.

## **Boston College and Boston Public Schools**

Several projects with Arts & Sciences faculty are in the works including the installation of a seismograph at Brighton High School for development of the Educational Seismic Network. BC science professors will work with student teachers, students and high school staff on science training and courses on geology. Also, cooperation between the Watershed Institute, Teacher Educators, and Title II has led to the proposal of a course with field placement at the Franklin Park Zoo. Computers have been purchased and installed at Brighton High and a meeting will be held to begin implementation of an email writing tutorial between 9<sup>th</sup> grade English class and a BC honors English class. Not only will this project benefit both groups of students but BC faculty will use the opportunity to encourage tutors to consider teaching as a career.

The Romance Language Department at BC will develop an elementary foreign language strand. Two sections of the Spanish language course strand have already been developed, and a summer grant proposal was submitted in order to enable more work. On March 31 the department hosts a workshop that will focus on children's literature in Spanish. Noted author Alma Flor Ada will be the guest speaker. The workshop will consist of breakfast over round table discussions with practitioners presenting units of their work followed by the guest speaker and workshops to assist participants in rethinking their units. PDP's available. To participate email Kathy Lee at [leekn@bc.edu](mailto:leekn@bc.edu).

In addition, building a Spanish juvenile literature collection in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) is in the works. A Spanish activity webpage has already been completed as part of a project to improve foreign language teaching. BC faculty will meet with Brighton High School foreign language teachers to further develop the webpage. For activities and more info go to "bilingual instruction" at: [galenet.gale.com/a/acp/name/ches16694](http://galenet.gale.com/a/acp/name/ches16694)

## **U Mass Amherst and Springfield Public Schools**

Work continues with the Center for Computer-based Instructional Technology from the Department of Computer Science and *180 Days in Springfield* project. They have expanded to include a project called Virtual Resource Room, or VRROOM which is an online annotated version of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks that is being developed for the use of teacher candidates and practicing teachers in the field. The VRROOM database contains web-based resources for teaching academic content and mandated by the Frameworks and MCAS exams. A prototype has already been developed in the areas of History/Social Science and English, and with the assistance of a small grant from the AOL Foundation, the plans are to begin developing the areas of Science and World Languages as well in the spring of this year. Take a look at what has been developed at: [ccbit.cs.umass.edu/SchoolofEducation/Preservice/Vrroom](http://ccbit.cs.umass.edu/SchoolofEducation/Preservice/Vrroom)

## **Wheelock College and Boston Public Schools**

This year, Young Achievers School will create a school-wide curriculum that will have clear and coherent goals for each grade level in mathematics, literacy, and science technology. Wheelock College faculty participate on design teams and work as readers and consultants. Science faculty are drafting the content, concepts and skills to be taught at each grade level. Faculty also design and support the professional development that will be underway once the curriculum is established.

A professor from Wheelock mathematics department and the Young Achievers math coach are creating a seminar and a math course for interns. The focus of the seminar will be to reflect on ways to teach math, while the mathematics course will be specifically to support the intern's skill and knowledge in math. The seminar will extend for six weeks, beginning January 24<sup>th</sup> and will also encompass concepts that teachers will grapple with in teaching the TERC Investigations curriculum, such as mental math, multiple strategies in problem solving, and reflecting on children's thinking. They have developed an assessment that corresponds with the TERC curriculum that will be administered to the interns. After the seminar, the course focusing on the math content will be open to all staff.



## **Northeastern University and Boston Public Schools**

English, mathematics, world history, and science/engineering faculty continue to have involvement in the partner schools in many capacities, such as supervising graduate interns. The O'Bryant High School Social Studies Department receives bi-weekly training and classroom modeling. Other activities include one-on-one meetings with O'Bryant teachers in order to develop writing prompts, extensive planning for a 12-hour world history professional development program and a Shakespeare professional development program. Quincy Upper School's Humanities group meets weekly with history faculty at Northeastern. Faculty also participate on curriculum committees in the areas of History, African American Studies, Sociology and Anthropology, and Mathematics, and are in the process of re-visioning the curriculum in favor of an urban-focused, community dedicated, and practice oriented education curriculum.

## UMass Boston and Boston Public Schools

Two UMass Boston mathematics faculty members will be taking their spring sabbatical at Dorchester High School in an effort to plan, co-teach, and mentor teachers at the high school. A biology professor from the university will also collaborate with a Dorchester AP biology teacher this spring. Another fruitful collaborative effort took place in December when teachers, administrators and faculty from both institutions presented on this partnership at the Education Trust Foundation conference in Washington, D.C.

The Condon Elementary School cooperating teachers continue to work with UMass Boston student teachers in grades K-5 in their science investigation course. This course consists of the investigation of patterns, discussion of ways to develop literacy skills, and strengthening teacher's science content knowledge and pedagogy.

## Clark University and Worcester Public Schools

This partnership is implementing the first objective in a number of exciting and innovative ways. Arts and Sciences faculty continue to be involved with teachers on K-16 curriculum teams. Another curriculum initiative in its preliminary stages involves the Arts and Sciences and Education faculty, the New England Ecotarium, and grade 7-12 teachers in developing an interdisciplinary curriculum on urban ecology.

Cohorts of student teachers will be hosted by the Goddard Elementary, Hiatt Elementary, Sullivan Middle and South High Professional Development Schools in the Spring 2001 semester. The collaborations will incorporate school and university faculty perspectives and classroom-based rounds as a means to implement school-based teacher preparation. In addition, Master's students work in the Homework Center and Adult Evening Education Program.



The UPCS and the Hiatt Center can credit their collective efforts for UPCS students scoring well above state and district averages on the MCAS test. This feat is considerably more victorious because 70% of UPCS students receive free lunch, and 53%

## Lesley University and Boston Public Schools

The Lesley/Dever Program soliciting is A&S faculty representation on its advisory board (which is now forming). There's a lot of interest, and the A&S faculty have shown serious interest in the work of the partnership and the questions being asked about children's learning.

For example, in the fall one Lesley faculty member, co-taught the "Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning" course to the interns--it's a science/social studies methods course, and she functioned as the historian for the semester. Also, a psychology faculty member is working with us as we develop a deeper outreach to the parents. She is a Boston Public Schools parent with terrific experience, and heads the University's School Counselor masters' degree program. This spring she will continue in the parent outreach effort, and will lead a group of parents who are interested in talking about some of the joys and challenges in raising children.

One of the University librarians will also be working with the program in the spring semester to do some interesting work on the website and to increase visual literacy as well.

## The Coalition

*"PDSs bring together university and school-based faculty within a school setting to share responsibility for the clinical preparation of new teachers, the professional development of experienced faculty, the support of research directed at improvement of practice, and enhanced student learning."*

*-NCATE PDS Standards Project*

The Coalition will co-sponsor a conference on Arts and Sciences faculty involvement in teacher education with the Massachusetts Professional Development Schools (PDS) Network on October 26, 2001. The conference was developed in response to needs of the MA PDS Network members. In recent meeting members voiced concerns about sharing and publishing their work with other schools, networks and policy makers. In addition, many of the member schools are struggling to find avenues and incentives to include Arts and Sciences faculty in their teacher education work. The conference is one path to meeting these needs. Members and interested parties will come together to share practice, review research, and develop action plans. Coalition PDSs include Clark partnership schools, Chestnut Middle School in Springfield, and Dorchester High School and Young Achievers School in Boston.



***Reserve the Date!***

## Calendar of Events

### Coalition-Wide Conferences

May 12– “Parent and Community  
Engagement in Schools”  
June 28-29 - Summer Institute

### Partnership Events

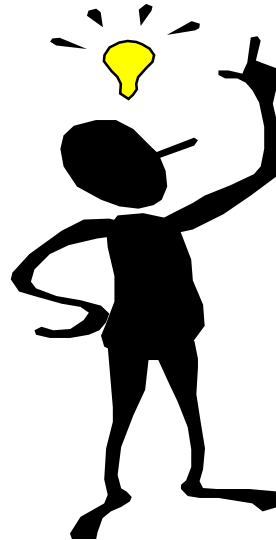
March 20 – U Mass Boston Conference  
“Different Family Configurations in  
Urban Schools”  
March 31 – Boston College Workshop  
“Children’s Literature in Spanish”

### Coalition Conference Presentations

March 1-4 - AACTE in Dallas, Texas  
April 10-14 - AERA in Seattle, Washington

### Steering Committee Meetings

February 20 – Clark University  
March 19 – Young Achievers School, Boston  
April 1-2 – Sturbridge Retreat  
May 7 – Clark University



[bc.edu/masscoalition](http://bc.edu/masscoalition)

You may have noticed that our website has been under construction. Much of the material has been updated including Year 2 work plans, conference news with speaker info. and resources, and partnership descriptions.

Take a look.

## Got News?

*Don't forget to keep the Coalition in touch.*  
Send us your articles, your ideas, and your important dates.

Submissions should be sent to:

[martacz@bc.edu](mailto:martacz@bc.edu)