



FLORIDA INSTITUTE
OF EDUCATION
at the University of North Florida

FIE Makes a Difference

FIE Makes a Difference

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FIE Partners

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Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida
Crawford Family Foundation, Inc.
Duval County Public Schools
Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Inc.
Episcopal Children's Services
Edward Waters College (EWC)
Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ)
Greenwood School
Jacksonville Children's Commission
KIPP Jacksonville
Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership
United Way of Northeast Florida

State Partners

Florida College Access Network (CAN)
Florida Department of Education/Office of Curriculum Instruction and Student Services
Florida Department of Education/Office of Early Learning
Florida Head Start
State Collaboration Office
Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition

University of North Florida

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Center for Urban Education and Policy
Child Development Resource Center
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College of Arts and Sciences/Department of Psychology
College of Computing, Engineering and Construction/School of Computing
College of Education and Human Services
Enrollment Services
Jacksonville Commitment Program
Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives (CCI)

Dear Friends,

Just as roots support the branches of a tree, FIE endeavors to support the diverse branches of the educational community through evaluation research, coaching and training, and program and project development. Serving as a resource to many partners in the educational sector, FIE is making a difference by:

- Partnering with educational and community organizations locally, regionally, and across the state;
- Engaging in community-based inquiry;
- Connecting with the PreK-3 educational communities to advance early literacy and learning;
- Increasing at-risk students' aspirations to attend college; and
- Nurturing a college-going pipeline linking the elementary school, middle school, high school, and postsecondary levels.

By building strong relationships with the educational community and addressing pressing needs, FIE is helping anchor and affirm the University of North Florida's civic and community responsibility to advance education at all levels.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Fountain, Ed. D
Executive Director

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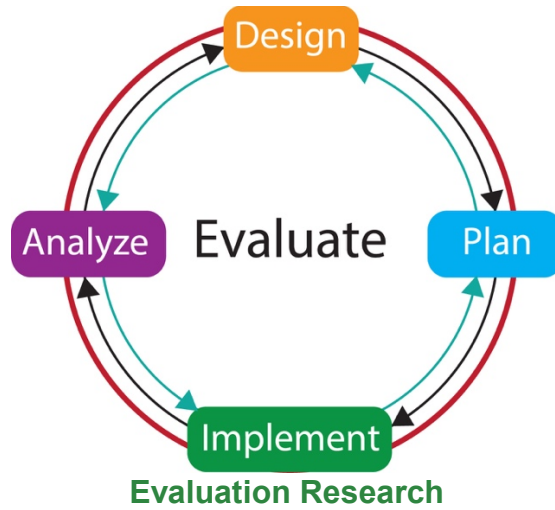
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FIE Areas of Expertise

FIE seeks to inform policy and decision making, support prekindergarten through postsecondary teaching and learning, and positively impact families and communities through evaluation research, coaching and training, and program and project development.



Coaching and Training



Program and Project Development

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Evaluation Research

FIE is committed to finding evidence-based solutions to important educational problems, thereby impacting the quality of education available to today's diverse learners through research and collaboration.



FIE evaluation research is characterized by:

- Strengthening connections between research and practice;
- Collaborating with local and state educational and community agencies and organizations;
- Improving learning opportunities for historically under-served children and youth;
- Increasing access to the knowledge and skills needed to improve teaching and learning taking place in preschool through postsecondary settings;
- Developing and disseminating evidenced-based tools and strategies; and
- Making data-informed decisions.

Evaluation Research



FIE uses research and inquiry tools to tackle pressing problems of practice; answer questions about program effectiveness; and develop, test, and disseminate new instructional practices and materials.



FIE, working with its partners, assesses approximately 2,500 children each year and uses the results to strengthen teaching and learning. Well-trained data collectors assess children in one-on-one settings.

Teaching with Technology

The Teaching with Technology Initiative increases teachers' knowledge and abilities to integrate educational technology across the curriculum to deepen and enhance children's engagement and learning.



The Teaching with Technology Initiative increases the digital literacy skills of teachers and children and promotes 21st Century learning skills: critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration.

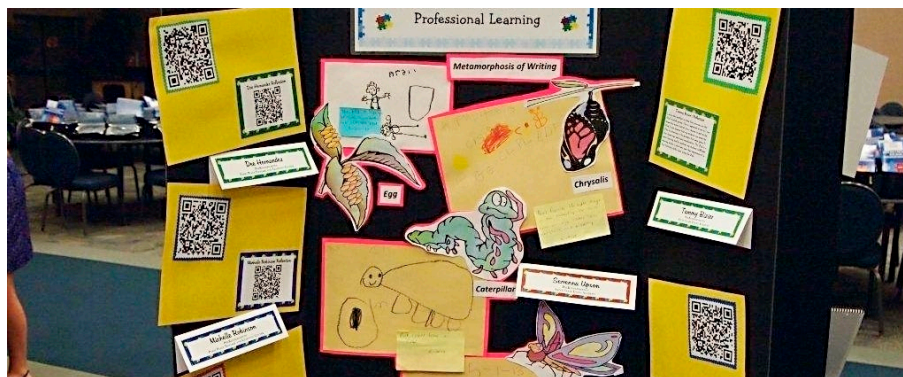


Professional learning sessions scaffold teachers' use of the iPad to differentiate instruction.

Teaching with Technology



Collaborative multi-grade-level professional learning sessions foster vertical and horizontal articulation among and between teachers.



Using Web 2.0 tools, such as QR Codes, student and teacher successes are showcased via videos, work samples, and e-books.



FIE researchers use a wide variety of methods including face-to-face learning sessions, online resources, and job-embedded coaching to support teachers' use of technological and literacy-focused instructional strategies.

FIE Curricula

The work of FIE is designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, instructional practices, and resources important to educators as they work to improve the learning outcomes for children and youth, particularly for those living in low-income neighborhoods. Several curricula have been developed to address the specific needs of young children.



The Early Literacy and Learning Model Plus (ELLM/Plus), a research and evidence-based curriculum, is designed to increase three-, four-, and five-year-old children's academic achievement.



ELLM/Plus strengthens teachers interactive read-aloud time with children, building their foundation for vocabulary and concept development. ELLM/Plus is used in hundreds of classrooms across Florida.

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Skill-based Educational Experiences Delivery System (SEEDS) is a volunteer, community-based pre-kindergarten mentoring program designed to increase oral language and literacy skills of children.



SEEDS is currently used in the Reading Pals/United Way program in Duval, Volusia, and Flagler counties.



The 18 *Family Home Instructional Units* are designed for family home care providers who work with two-, three-, and four-year-old children. Each instructional unit provides children opportunities to develop vocabulary and background knowledge.

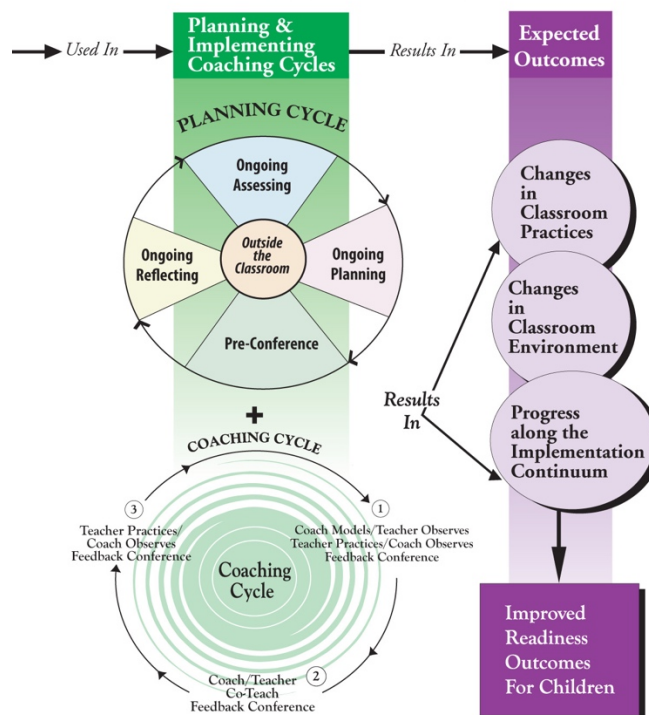
Professional Learning

Early in 1999, FIE began working with our local and statewide partners to develop, implement, and refine the FIE Strategic Coaching Model as part of our professional development initiative. The model focuses on building both content knowledge and coaching skill and includes the Planning and Implementing Coaching Cycles as well as Expected Outcomes.



FIE Strategic Coaching Model

Structural Elements



FIE provides initial and advanced coaching institutes and seminars for both coaches and site administrators.

Professional Learning

In 2006, an FIE researcher participated in the University of Virginia Classroom Assessment and Scoring System training and became a certified PreK CLASS trainer. All FIE researchers implementing professional development are PreK and K-3 certified CLASS observers and focus professional learning activities on enhancing concept and vocabulary development, providing quality feedback to children, and modeling language associated with improved concept instruction.



FIE researchers work with teachers and coaches inside and outside the classroom to improve instructional practice.

Family Engagement

FIE Family Engagement Programs encourage the active participation of families in their children's education by developing, testing, and disseminating research-based curricula and tools they can use to support their children's learning, motivation and achievement.



The *Family Exploration and Learning Toolkit* helps families to transform everyday activities into learning experiences that build background knowledge, social-emotional skills, and oral language and vocabulary development.



The UNF/FIE Pre-Collegiate Connections: College Reach-Out Program Family Workshop series transforms families into partners by providing workbooks and tools they can use at home to support their middle school students' learning and educational success.

Increasing Aspirations to Attend College

UNF/FIE Pre-Collegiate Connections: College Reach-Out Program raises the aspirations of middle school Pre-Collegiate Scholars (middle school students) to attend and successfully complete college. UNF undergraduate students help Scholars build background knowledge in AP Human Geography, learn to use computer-based technology, and use concept mapping to improve their thinking and problem-solving skills.



The UNF/FIE Pre-Collegiate Connections: College Reach-Out Program uses small and whole group activities, technology resources, and a hands-on AP Human Geography curriculum to motivate, enhance, and strengthen students' aspirations and preparation for postsecondary education.



UNF/FIE Pre-Collegiate Learning Guides (UNF undergraduate students) engage in weekly College Conversations with Scholars about what it takes to be successful in school and imagine what their future might look like.

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Scholars display and share with families and educators what they learn during the annual Scholar Gallery Showcase held on the UNF campus.



During the summer, Scholars experience college life, participate in team building activities, learn about health and nutrition, swim, play games, and have fun at the UNF Osprey Camps.

Developing a College-Going Pipeline

If we are to significantly increase the numbers of social economically disadvantaged students who enter and succeed in college, intervention programs must target students early and often. The UNF/FIE College-Going Pipeline activities increase awareness and raise aspirations of Duval County Public Schools elementary, middle, and high school students to enroll and succeed in college.



UNF/FIE Pre-Collegiate Learning Guides encourage 5th Grade students to think about going to college through the “Osprey Explorers” program.



UNF/FIE Pre-Collegiate Scholars visit local colleges to learn about programs they offer and requirements to enroll.



Jacksonville Commitment Advisors encourage and share valuable information about scholarship opportunities.

Recent Presentations and Publications

Hunter, J., Monroe-Ossi, H., Wehry, S., McLemore, B., & Fountain, C. (2012). Improving the odds: Using concept mapping strategies and informational books to build children's and educators' background knowledge. In A. Cañas, J. Novak, & J. Vanhear (Eds.), *Concept maps: Theory, methodology, technology. Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Concept Mapping* (Vol. 2, pp. 266-270). Valletta, Malta : University of Malta.

McLemore, B., Monroe-Ossi, H., Wehry, S., & Hunter, J. (2012). Using concept maps to promote the emergent literacy skills of 3- to 5-year-old children. In A. Cañas, J. Novak, & J. Vanhear (Eds.), *Concept maps: Theory, methodology, technology. Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Concept Mapping* (Vol. 2, pp. 460-467). Valletta, Malta : University of Malta.

Monroe-Ossi, H., Wehry, S., Fountain, C., & Cobb, S. (2012). Concept mapping applications and assessment in an after school program for adolescent students. In A. Cañas, J. Novak, & J. Vanhear (Eds.), *Concept maps: Theory, methodology, technology. Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Concept Mapping* (Vol. 1, pp. 120-127). Valletta, Malta : University of Malta.

Monroe-Ossi, H., Ohlson, T., Wehry, S., & Fountain, C. (2013). iPad integration in the primary grades: Enhancing literacy instruction through teacher professional development. In J. Herrington, A. Couros, & V. Irvine (Eds.), *Proceedings of World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia and Telecommunications 2013* (pp. 2175-2178). Chesapeake, VA: AACE. (Presented at EdMedia Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, in June 2013.)

Wehry, S., Monroe-Ossi, H., Cobb, S., & Fountain, C. (2012). Concept mapping strategies: Content, tools and assessment for human geography. *Journal of Geography*, 111, 83-92.

Wood, J. (2013, July). *Enhancing children's learning in family home settings*. Paper presented at the National Association for Family Child Care Conference, Scottsdale, AZ.

Resources Available

Family Home Instructional Units are designed for family home care providers to help children develop vocabulary and background knowledge. Free downloads are available online at [http://www.unf.edu/fie/Family_Childcare_Homes_Instructional_Units_\(FCCH\).aspx](http://www.unf.edu/fie/Family_Childcare_Homes_Instructional_Units_(FCCH).aspx).

Skill-based Educational Experiences Delivery System (SEEDS) is a supplemental curriculum designed to increase children oral language and literacy skills. SEEDS literacy packets can be ordered online at [http://www.unf.edu/fie/Prekindergarten_Mentoring_Program_\(SEEDS\).aspx](http://www.unf.edu/fie/Prekindergarten_Mentoring_Program_(SEEDS).aspx).

The ELLM/Plus Family Calendar includes activities that families and children can do together at home and in the community. The ELLM/Plus Family Calendar is available in English and can be ordered online at <http://www.unf.edu/fie/ellm/>.

ELLM/Plus Monthly Family Tips supplement the ELLM/Plus Family Calendar with questions, songs, and other activities to engage children in meaningful learning. The monthly Family Tips can be downloaded free at <http://www.unf.edu/fie/ellm/>.

ELLM/Plus “Come Along, Sing the Alphabet Song” is an engaging fun ABC song designed to help children learn letters and letter songs. Preview the song and order the CD or DVD online at <http://www.unf.edu/fie/ellm/>.

FIE Staff

Professional Staff

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