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CTI Welcomes 2015 Cohort of 104 CMS Teachers

CHARLOTTE – May 2015 – Charlotte Teachers Institute (CTI) welcomed its new cohort of 104 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) teachers into its innovative, interdisciplinary seminars for 2015. “This year’s CTI Fellows represent the wide range of teachers in CMS, from new to veteran, kindergarten to 12th grade, and physics to interior design,” said CTI Director Scott Gartlan. “We continue to create significant growth opportunities for teacher leaders looking to deepen their knowledge base and impact the lives of their students.”

CTI’s eight concurrent seminars began with an orientation at Discovery Place in April and will run through November. CTI seminars are led by faculty experts in the arts and sciences, including four from Davidson College and four from UNC Charlotte. Seminars meet on those campuses and also at the Discovery Place Education Studio.

In each seminar, 13 CMS teachers (CTI Fellows) and a faculty leader work closely together in exploring a topic, long term and in depth, with each teacher creating new curriculum designed for his or her own students as a culminating project. CTI Fellows receive full access to both Davidson College and UNC Charlotte resources, as well as family memberships to Discovery Place. Upon completion each Fellow is awarded a \$1,500 stipend and continuing education credits.

The 2015 CTI seminars and seminar leaders include:

- [*Exercise and the Brain*](#) – Barbara Lom, Biology, Davidson College
- [*What Makes a Nation?*](#) – Shelley Rigger, Political Science, Davidson College
- [*The Origins of Human Language*](#) – Ron Lunsford, English, UNC Charlotte
- [*Fundamentals of Mathematics: Problem Solving and Process Standards*](#) – Harold Reiter, Mathematics and Statistics, UNC Charlotte
- [*Peace Education: Psychological Factors that Endorse War*](#) – Rick Gay, Educational Studies, Davidson College
- [*Integrating Concepts in Life Sciences*](#) – Malcolm Campbell and Chris Paradise, Biology, Davidson College
- [*Africa: Moving Beyond Popular Culture*](#) – Beth Whitaker, Political Science, UNC Charlotte
- [*Supernatural Figures in Theatre, Film and the Brain*](#) – Mark Pizzato, Theatre, UNC Charlotte

About Charlotte Teachers Institute

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Through seminars led by UNC Charlotte and Davidson College faculty, CMS teachers learn new content, work collaboratively with other teachers, and develop new curricula for their students. Teachers serve as leaders in the institute and choose seminar topics they deem most important and engaging for current CMS teachers and their students. To date, more than 300 CMS teachers have participated in 44 CTI seminars, reaching more than 62,600 students.

In addition to its eight intensive annual seminars, CTI presents special events open to all teachers including “Evening for Educators” and “Teachers as Scholars” where CTI Fellows share the new curriculum they have developed in their seminars. CTI also offers community programs open to the public such as the popular “Exploding Canons” cultural collaboration series. In 2013 CTI and its partners were recognized by the Council of Great City Schools with the Shirley S. Schwartz Urban Education Impact Award.

CTI programs are made possible by a joint commitment of resources from CMS, Davidson College and UNC Charlotte and through the generosity of private funding institutions such as the Wells Fargo Foundation, The Belk Foundation, The Duke Energy Foundation, Piedmont Natural Gas Foundation, the Charlotte Hornets Foundation and Lowe’s Home Improvement. The institute is housed at UNC Charlotte within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

The full list of 2015 CTI Fellows by seminar includes:

Exercise and the Brain

Cassandra Black, First Grade, Ashley Park PreK-8
Jeanne Cooper, Science, Mallard Creek HS
Tracie Cooper, Fourth Grade, Hidden Valley ES
DeNise Gerst, Science, Barringer Academic Center
David Hartzell, Literacy, Shamrock Gardens ES
Deb Jung, Media Skills, Winding Springs Elementary
Amethyst Klein, Science, Winterfield ES
Aaron Kollar, Math, Piedmont Open IB MS
Benji Lewis, Fifth Grade, Grand Oak ES
Molly McCarthy, Language Arts, Piedmont Open IB MS
Lauren McNeil, Special Education, Lebanon Road ES
Ted Miracle, Fifth Grade, Grand Oak ES
Leslie Paytes, Math, Crestdale MS

What Makes a Nation?

Jennifer Anderson, Language Arts, James Martin MS
Brad Baker, History, W.A. Hough HS
Annie Calloway, Literacy, Olde Providence ES
Calen Clifton, Social Studies, Martin Luther King, Jr. MS
Alexandra Edwards, Social Studies, Bailey MS
Michele Lemere, English, Garinger HS
Lisa Modrow, Social Studies, Bailey MS
Rob Pinkston, Interior Design, W.A. Hough HS
Bridget Robinson, History, W.A. Hough HS

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Heather Simpson, Grades 1-3, Chantilly Montessori
Mark Surratt, Fourth Grade, Providence Spring ES
Alan Vitale, History, East Mecklenburg HS
Katie Willett, English, Independence HS

The Origins of Human Language

KaraAnne Boneillo, Fourth Grade, Reedy Creek ES
Melinda Clunn, Language Arts, McClintock MS
Adriana Hart, Kindergarten, Collinswood Language Academy
Allen Jacobi, Language Arts, Northwest School of the Arts
Matt Kelly, Spanish, Independence HS
Melanie Kirschner, First Grade, Albemarle Road ES
Tabitha Miller, Kindergarten, Collinswood Language Academy
Sedana Noble, First Grade, Reedy Creek ES
Nicole Nesbitt, Science, Albemarle Road MS
Margaux Saenz, Fourth Grade, Oaklawn Language Academy
Seon Sloley-Posey, Fourth Grade, Barringer Academic Center
Rochelle Stanley, English, Garinger HS
Elizabeth Young, English as a Second Language, Lebanon Road ES

Fundamentals of Mathematics: Problem Solving and Process Standards

Lisa Ashworth, Fifth Grade, Barringer Academic Center
Michael Butler, Fifth Grade, Elon Park ES
Dennis Fox, Math/Science, Turning Point Academy
Gilberto Franco, Math, Collinswood Language Academy
Miesha Gadsden, Second Grade, J.H. Gunn ES
Katelyn Gardepe, Fifth Grade, David Cox Road ES
Connie George, Math, Quail Hollow MS
Kimberly Lipscomb, Fourth Grade, Highland Creek ES
Mindy Passe, Fifth Grade, Barringer Academic Center
Joanne Rowe, Math, Northwest School of the Arts
Stephen Salisbury, Kindergarten, Crown Point ES
Meg Shuman, Fourth Grade, Barringer Academic Center
Rima Solh, Math, Eastway MS

Peace Education: Psychological Factors that Endorse War

Heather Almaraz, Fifth Grade, Lebanon Road ES
Angela Bates, History, CATO Middle College HS
Gloria Brinkman, Visual Art, North Mecklenburg HS
Albertia Burgess, English, West Charlotte HS
Melanie Greely, Grades 4-6, Chantilly Montessori
Cheryl Hanley, Language Arts, McClintock MS
Sarah Korenyik, Language Arts, Northwest School of the Arts
Jennifer Ladanyi, Language Arts, Bailey MS
Michael Richards, Social Studies, Bailey MS
Megan Shellenberger, English, W.A. Hough HS

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Roshan Varghese, History, Butler HS
Deborah Watson, Visual Art, Hopewell HS
Christopher Williams, English, East Mecklenburg HS

Integrating Concepts in Life Sciences

Chrystal Cavanagh, Science, Morehead STEM Academy
Alicia Gaj, Science, McClintock MS
Rochelle Gray, Biology, Mallard Creek HS
Tavia Highsmith, Language Arts, Albemarle Road MS
Julie McConnell, Biology, W.A. Hough HS
Adora Reid, Science, James Martin MS
Ericka Riddle, Biology, East Mecklenburg HS
Julie Ruziska Tiddy, Science, Carmel MS
Deb Semmler, Physics, East Mecklenburg HS
Sandie Spraggins, Technology, Irwin Academic Center
Kimberly Terrell, Fifth Grade, Steele Creek ES
Jennifer Thompson, Science, James Martin MS
Connie Wood, Biology, East Mecklenburg HS

Africa: Moving Beyond Popular Culture

Lara Britain, Social Studies, James Martin MS
Justine Busto, English as a Second Language, East Mecklenburg HS
Nikki Dingle, Science, Coulwood MS
Ian Joyce, Social Studies, Eastway MS
Beth Lasure, Visual Art, Mallard Creek HS
Ebony' Lockett, English, West Mecklenburg HS
Wendy Potter, Family/Consumer Science, David Butler HS
Pam Shembo, Fifth Grade, Waddell Language Academy
Jackie Smith, Science, W.A. Hough HS
Merrie Smith, Third Grade, Shamrock Gardens ES
Darrmetacia Winston, Family/Consumer Science, Olympic HS School
Lana Withrow, Music, Barringer Academic Center
Sade Wright, Third Grade, Barringer Academic Center

Supernatural Figures in Theatre, Film and the Brain

Tabitha Albury, English, North Mecklenburg HS
Christine Beau-Antoine, Language Arts, Lincoln Heights Academy
Angela Boyce-Thornton, Kindergarten, Ashley Park Pre K-8
Mawuena Dabla, French, Harding University HS
Jennifer Dalesandro, Third Grade, Bain ES
Nikki Guevara, First Grade, Bain ES
Kristen Karazsia, English, West Mecklenburg HS
Stephanie Misko, English, W.A. Hough HS
Silvia Monsalve-Velazquez, First Grade, Oaklawn Language Academy
Noelle Peerey, Visual Art, Hopewell HS
Kelley Shelley, Visual Art, Butler HS

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Teresa Strohl, Visual Art, Barringer Academic Center
Amy Thomas, First Grade, Reedy Creek ES