CSUteach is off to a busy, but exciting new year! Please join us in congratulating our 2013-14 CSUteach graduates! We are excited to announce that of the new CSUteach graduates, 10 are employed as teachers! We are pleased to report our current placement rate is 74% and we are hopeful that we will continue to increase the number of CSUteach trained teachers with each graduating class. We are excited as 20 CSUteach students, our largest group thus far, are beginning their student teaching this Spring 2015. They will be eligible to obtain a teaching license when their coursework is completed, examinations are passed, and portfolios are developed.

We send along best wishes to Gina Eaton, who served as a CSUteach Induction and Professional Development Coordinator, for the past three years. Although we are saddened that Gina will no longer be a member of CSUteach, we are excited for her and wish her well on her future endeavors!

Please join us in sending a warm welcome to our three new faculty and staff members! Welcome Dr. Kate O’Hara, Dr. James (Jim) Kilbane, and Dr. Lisa Suarez-Caraballo to the CSUteach family! We are excited for all of you to join our team and look forward to our work together!

Highlights:
Congratulations to Kristen Schuler for being selected for the NASA/Ohio Space Grant consortium (OSGC) Education Scholarship! Kristen plans to create a lesson, utilizing NASA materials, and will create a poster presentation to display at the annual OSGC Student Research Symposium.

The University STEMM Education Center held its second colloquium this fall. For more information about the University STEMM Education Center, please visit http://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/departments/TE/stemm/stemm.html.

CSUteach and MC² STEM High School collaborated to host a workshop titled 3-D Design and Printing in STEM Workshop. Andrea Lane, who is an MC² STEM graduate and current Cleveland State University engineering student, and Paul Sharaba, a CSUteach graduate and teacher in Crestwood Local School District, presented the workshop. For more information on upcoming workshops, please visit: https://sites.google.com/site/csuteachpd/home.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland thanked and congratulated CSUteach, CSU, and George Washington Carver-STEM School for winning a trip to Progressive Field at the end of the school last year. CSUteach received a $5,000 grant that allowed the 2nd grade teachers and students to participate in the Weather Day event with Channel 3 and the Cleveland Indians.

Throughout this newsletter edition you will find highlights and updates of recent CSUteach events.

Dr. Debbie Jackson
CSUteach Interim Director
CSUteach says farewell to Gina

Gina previously worked as the CSUteach Induction and Professional Development Coordinator where she assisted students through one-on-one conferences and professional development workshops. She now works at Shaker Heights as a Math Development Coordinator. She has been a great asset to the CSUteach family and will be greatly missed. Best of luck in the future, Gina!
Congratulations to Jessica, CSUteach Graduate!

I am a mother to a very active 3 year old. My current interests are sleeping (which I rarely do), working my side business, and spending time with my family. I am addicted to Dr. Who. I love eating good food and learning about cooking/food preparation, my current adventure is in canning. I graduated from CSUteach in 2014 I am currently teaching Physical Science in CMSD at a new school called PACT @ JFK. The program at this school is very different from anything else in CMSD. We only have 9th graders and we use an online based curriculum called Edgenuity. Every student has their own laptops and we are on a mastery based system.

What did you enjoy most about the CSUteach program?

The thing that I enjoyed the most was how well I got to know my professors and in turn how well they got to know me. I felt like everyone in the department knew me and like they were my own personal cheer squad.

How have your CSUteach experiences prepared you for a teaching profession? Do you feel as though you are well equipped as a teacher after graduating from the program?

My experiences in CSUteach prepared me for the teaching profession by being rigorous yet realistic. The courses are very tough but I feel that going through them has prepared me to be a better teacher. I feel much more equipped to teach than others I know that went through other programs. I think one of the big differences is how early we are in a classroom and how much time we spend in them.

What is your best memory from the CSUteach program?

My best memory is all of them! I really can not come up with 1 specific memory from the program. I will say that the friends I made in this program will be people that I will keep in my life for a long time. It is really great to know that I have colleagues that have been through the same program, we can collaborate and help each other in so many ways.

Do you have any advice for prospective CSUteach students?

Be prepared to work harder than you may have ever worked before. At the time it will seem impossible but when you make it through you will realize that you have been given the tools to be an amazing teacher and it will be all worth it.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Talk to your professors and get to know them early.

Congratulations,
Jessica and good luck!

From: Your CSUteach Staff
Congratulations to Kristen Schuler for being selected for the NASA/Ohio Space Grant Consortium Education Scholarship.

Kristen currently works as a STEM peer teacher for the Operation STEM Program and a Teaching Assistant in the Cleveland State Physics Department. For the Operation STEM Program, Kristen creates and implements lessons for Pre-Calculus and Calculus courses.

The scholarship is funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) through its National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. Kristen receives the scholarship as she pursues Adolescent and Young Adult Licensure in mathematics and physics through the CSUteach program. Upon receiving the scholarship, Kristen will create a lesson utilizing NASA materials and will create a poster to display at the annual OSGC Student Research Symposium. Kristen’s goal is to design a lesson and poster that ties mathematical concepts together with real-life applications and situations found in STEM fields.

CSUteach’s Dr. Debbie Jackson and Courtney Nudell were of considerable assistance in helping to recruit applicants for this year’s awards.
Welcome New CSUteach Faculty and Staff!

Kate O’Hara, Ed.D
CSUteach Master Teacher - Mathematics

For how long have you been an educator? Where did you teach prior to Cleveland State? What grade and subjects?

I have been teaching mathematics and mathematics education for 14 years. I taught mathematics at an urban high school in New Jersey for 11 years. During that time I finished my doctorate in mathematics education at Rutgers. I left the high school and taught as an adjunct for one year while still living in New Jersey: secondary math methods at Rutgers, elementary math methods at Seton Hall, statistics at Brookdale Community College, mathematics modeling at Monmouth University. After that year I moved to Ohio and began work at the University of Mount Union as their Director of Field Services. I left Mount Union to join the faculty at CSUteach. I am teaching Project Based Instruction (315), Step 1 (201), and STEM Apprentice Teaching I (399).

What do you enjoy most about being an educator?

My mother taught first grade in Harlem, New York. I loved going in and visiting her classroom and seeing her students. It was amazing to me that she was teaching young children to read. Urban districts need good teachers – so I decided to leave the accounting business and become a teacher, however, I loved mathematics so I returned to college and re-majored in mathematics and completed a masters of arts in teaching.

What do you enjoy most about being an educator?

Making a difference in someone’s life. Having a positive effect on someone. My research centered on students’ mathematical identity. I focused on that because the goal in my classroom was always to get students feeling better about themselves as students in general – an of course in mathematics.

Tell me about your role within the CSUteach team?

I am teaching 3 courses this fall (EUT 315, EST 399, and EUT 201) along with supervising several students in the AT 1 semester. I love visiting them in their classrooms and advising them on their teaching styles. Supervising and teaching is exactly what I wanted to do and I am doing exactly that at CSU.

What do you find interesting about CSUteach? How is it different from programs you have worked with before?

CSUteach is on the cutting edge with its STEM program. The fact that we teach them in the classroom here and then follow them out into their classrooms to: observe, critique and guide them is exactly the way our education department wants us to prepare preservice teachers! We are doing exactly that. We are a combination of theory and practice. It is great to be a part of this team – to be doing what all colleges in Ohio will eventually try to implement. It is a lot of work but I can see no better way to prepare teachers than to instruct in the classroom, then to observe in the field, then finally to reflect on both experiences to make sense of the profession and its complexities. We are preparing our students to become exceptional teachers.

What are you most looking forward to as you embark upon your new position as Master Teacher?

Forming strong relationships with our pre-service teachers and guiding them towards exceptional teaching habits. I also look forward to helping them become teachers who will make a difference in the young people they will work with in the future.
James (Jim) Farrel Kilbane, Ph.D  
Assistant Professor - Clinical Faculty STEM Education

I grew up in Cleveland and when it came time to decide on college and a potential career I knew I wanted to work with people so I was deciding between education and social work. I had actually settled on social work but the summer before college I worked at a summer camp and was told that if you wanted to work with people the degree did not matter, just that you had one. So I decided to get a degree in Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University; which was a great place to attend college. I was in the major that dealt with interpretation so I wasn’t far from education.

My first job after college was as education director at the same camp I worked at in the summers. I loved working outside, but didn’t love having a new group of students every three days. I never felt like I had an impact. So I decided to become a teacher so I could have students for a full year. (Still not enough time I have learned…)

At the same time my father decided to open his own plumbing business, so I ran that while getting my teaching certificate in secondary science. Three years later I was certified to teach biology, general science, and comprehensive science (and still am as I am old enough to have a permanent certificate).

I taught for thirteen years in Lakewood Public Schools as a middle school science teacher. My last year was my favorite as the district allowed me to do an integrated curriculum with the seventh graders and four of us spent the year doing projects with the students. Just ask me, I could talk about it a lot…

While teaching I collected a Master’s degree in environmental education from Aurora University and another from Baldwin-Wallace in supervision as well as getting my principal’s license for middle school and high school. I was actively involved in the union and in Northeast Ohio attempts to develop teacher directed professional development.

The Ph.D. seemed the next logical step so I returned to Indiana, but this time Indiana University. While completing my doctorate I was executive director of the Indiana Essential Schools Network, a network of schools across Indiana working on teacher-led reform affiliated with the Coalition of Essential Schools. To date it has been the work I have enjoyed the most. So the gauntlet is thrown, CSU…

For personal reasons I wound up moving to New York City and did teacher education at Pace University for four and a half years. All of my students were science teachers either in the NYC Teaching Fellows or Teach for America programs earning their teaching certificate. While at Pace, I worked with our namesake high school, one of the small start-up high schools NYC developed. My colleague, Christine Clayton, and I also developed a network of schools that fostered the process of teachers doing inquiry into students learning through inquiry. That work continues, it is the focus of my research, and what I would like to expand to CSU.

New York City is a great place to visit and live, for a while, but it had too many people and too few trees for my taste, so before I headed back to Cleveland (my goal) I took a detour to work at Tulane for three years. My reason? It was New Orleans! I again did teacher education, though as we were a small department I did math, science, and general methods for secondary and early childhood education. It was fascinating to watch the educational landscape unfold in New Orleans, as much as it was frustrating. (Don’t believe the hype…)

While I was hoping to stay in New Orleans a few more years (oh, the restaurants within walking distance of my house…) my goal was to get back to Cleveland so I kept an eye out for positions. CSU had an opening in STEM education that involved building partnerships with schools that seemed perfect for the work I like to do. And here I am.

My role at CSUteach is still being defined, but it includes some teaching and much supervision of students in the field. My goal is to build on my experience to develop a network of schools that are partners with us in developing new STEM teachers. I see the development of a new teacher as a six-year process (and that’s just to get to “new”) with three years of pre-service where the university takes the lead and then three years of induction where the school/district takes the lead in developing the knowledge and skill base of a person to teach. All throughout I see a mutual exchange between university and school personnel in professional development and research.
When did you decide you wanted to become an educator?

I did not decide to become a math teacher until after I was working as a bilingual instructional aide for several years. I originally wanted to be an engineer but changed my mind after realizing how much I enjoyed teaching.

What do you enjoy most about being an educator?

I love getting students to realize that they can be successful learning math and that they can apply their knowledge to other things outside of school like robotics and engineering.

Tell me about your role within the CSUteach team.

I am the coordinator for induction and professional development. I mentor graduates from CSUteach as they begin teaching as well as provide professional development for our students, graduates and mentor teachers.

What do you find most interesting about CSUteach? How is it different from programs you have worked with before?

I love working with the CSUteach faculty, staff, and students. Everyone is so dedicated to making our graduates the best science and math teachers possible. I also enjoy the many different “hats” I get to wear. I love supervising students in the field as well as using my teaching skills and prior experience to share my knowledge of teaching and technology.

What are you most looking forward to as you embark upon your new position in the CSUteach program?

I look forward to sharing my knowledge as well as learning as much as possible from everyone in the program.
Briefly describe yourself.

Hi, I am Kelton Anderson. I graduated from CSUteach Spring 2014 and am currently continuing my education for a bachelor in mathematics. I am a media designer. I am a photographer on the side and enjoy walks through the Cleveland Metroparks as well as rock climbing. I currently tutor four days a week in Cleveland and am personally developing media and manipulatives for educators and students in mathematics.

What did you enjoy most about the CSUteach program?

Every education program is a challenging and often stressful experience. However in the CSUteach program, professors and staff consistently went above and beyond to support students in the program with weekly updates and information on internships, changes in education, job openings, etc. I always found CSUteach staff extremely personable and flexible while maintaining professionalism.

How have your CSUteach experiences prepared you for a teaching profession? Do you feel as though you are well equipped as a teacher after successfully completing the program?

I feel quite prepared and absolutely cannot wait to teach. My student teaching experience was not always easy, but it was tremendously rewarding. My classes at CSU along with the support of my mentor teachers showed me how to create and facilitate lessons which were rigorous, accessible, and meaningful in content. My supervisors helped me refine my reflective and planning practices and assisted in developing my professional goals. I was pushed to excellence in the program and reap the rewards daily as I create new plans and materials for students.

What is your best memory from the CSUteach program?

My best memory is of composing and rapping a song for my class which focused on the Mnemonic SOHCAHTOA, a way to remember how to compute the sine, cosine, and tangent of an angle. It was the last day of a large teaching evaluation called the TPA. Students loved it. I saw relational walls collapse and many doors opened. I also received the highest compliment from a student, “Mr. Anderson, you’re raw.”

Do you have any advice for prospective CSUteach students?

Focus on discovering what you love during your education and don’t be afraid to re-think and define your personal goals and perspectives regarding what mathematics should look like in education. Focus on the kind of educator you want to be remembered as being and then develop a plan to get there. Become a motivation for students to come to class and help them appreciate mathematics in relevant ways.

Kelton, thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm. Good luck in the future!

From: Your CSUteach Staff
Briefly describe yourself (interests, hobbies, etc.).

My name is Paula Phillips and I have been attending Cleveland State University for three and a half years. I am a biology major and I enjoy traveling. It was my traveling passion that got me interested in teaching in the first place, but more on that later. I have enjoyed my time at Cleveland State and met some good friends, but I am really looking forward to graduation in the spring semester.

Where are you currently placed for CSUteach and what are some successful, inquiry-based lessons you have done with students thus far?

I am currently placed in AT1 at Lakewood High School. I have had some lessons that have gone extremely well and some that have not gone so well. In Step 1, I had a great partner. We planned, took our time, and thought we had worked through all the kinks of our lesson. The lesson was for a 5th grade class and was all about organizing living organisms vs non-living organisms. We started our lesson and then were quickly overwhelmed. We overestimated our students for that lesson. My partner and I have come a long way since then.

My most recent lesson has been my most successful. Practice makes perfect, right? My lesson was about the cell membrane in different environments and osmosis. The students used eggs and placed them into different liquids and observed the effects after 3 days. The students were engaged and were able to prove that they understood the concept by verbal responses and from the post-assessment.

What do you enjoy most about the CSUteach program?

One of the aspects about the CSUteach program that I enjoy is the fact that we get placed into the classroom right away. Many students that started off with me are still in the program or have already graduated from the program. However, some students learned that maybe teaching was not for them. Another aspect that I enjoy about the CSUteach program is the stock room. It is so much easier and cheaper (which is important to college students) to use the items in the stock room. There is also many resources to come up with lessons and how to possibly modify the lesson if needed.
Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I never had a life long dream of becoming a teacher like some people. As a kid, my career choices varied depending on my mood. It was not until I went to South Korea and taught English as a second language that I figured out I wanted to be a teacher. When I came back from South Korea, I went to Tri-C and pursued a career path in middle school teaching. As I was working on my degree my mom told me about the CSUteach program and we toured Cleveland State. I really liked it and took the plunge.

Highlight an important time/event at your current work location and what you learned from it.

I have had a wide assortment of placements since I started the program. From the east side of Cleveland to a school that spoke mostly Spanish (and I speak none) to my current school (Lakewood High School), which is very diverse. My most rewarding work has come from working at the Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC). In the TLC, I work with a variety of students. Most of the students are English Language Learners. By working with these types of students, I am becoming more flexible and I understand my students better. Not only this, but I am using more PBL techniques because many students have language barriers.

Do you have any advice for perspective CSUteach students?

My advice would be to be flexible and always be prepared. There has never been a lesson that I have done that has gone the way I wrote it. I was once told a phrase that I try to keep in my mind when I am teaching. It goes “Blessed are the flexible for they shall never be bent out of shape”. This phrase is important because it fits the art of teaching so well.

Also, try to understand where the students of the class are coming from. The better you understand your students the better you can teach them. Because I am in AT1, I have had more time than before to get to know my students. Now I can tell who is having a bad day and how to aid in their learning. To be a teacher means that you are going to be dealing with people for the rest of your career. So people skills are a must.

Paula, thank you for all of your hard work and best of luck in the future!

From: Your CSUteach Staff
My name is Juliet King. I am currently in my 15th year of teaching. I began teaching at Margaret Spellacy Middle School (now Ginn Academy), where I taught science lab for the entire school and 8th grade science. In my second year, I became the Subject Area Specialist; and in my 3rd year, I became a mentor teacher for the Cleveland district.

After several years, I moved on to East Technical High School where I taught 9th grade physical science as well as Project Lead the Way, a high school engineering program. I was later hired at New Tech East H.S. where I am currently teaching 9th grade physical science in an integrated course, and have become a New Tech Certified Trainer. I am also a lead teacher in CMSD’s Best Practice Initiative Program and I am adjunct faculty at Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus where I teach AutoCAD.

In addition to that, I have also written a book called “My Blue Science OGT Book” which was published in 2008, as well as a STEM program that I wrote called “On the Move”. In 2012, this program was utilized at the Urban League of Greater Cleveland and parts of it were utilized during STEM summer camp at Kent State University.

I am currently a mentor teacher for science teachers in the Apprentice Teacher I Program. My current apprentice teacher is the 9th mentee teacher that I have worked with in my 15 year career.

I truly enjoy working with new people and sharing my expertise as a CSUteach mentor teacher. I also appreciate the knowledge, excitement, and enthusiasm that CSUteach students bring to the classroom.

My students have enjoyed both CSU apprentice teachers I have worked with. They have been so personable with the students and have successfully developed a strong rapport with them that makes students feel very comfortable learning from them.

As a mentor teacher, I love seeing my apprentice teachers conduct engaging lessons that make the students feel successful.

Teaching is a journey, and along the path, learning has no end!

Ms. King, thank you for all of your help and support to CSUteach mentee students!

From, the CSUteach Staff
Get Involved in WeTeach

WeTeach is a CSU organization open to all students. Many of the students who are involved in the group are students interested in pursuing teaching either in Mathematics or Sciences in grades 7-12.

WeTeach was organized to help students with academic job placement and connecting students with the community.

Some of the events that WeTeach members have done in the past are pumpkin paintings, visited classes to talk about WeTeach and CSUteach, and set up seminars about job interviews and placement.

Currently the group is looking for new members who can contribute new ideas and activities.

WeTeach Executive Board Members:

President: Paula Riedel
Vice President: Jason Labovitz
Secretary: Stephanie Bierstedt
Treasurer: Jason Labovitz
Computer Technology: Kelton Anderson
Advisor: Mr. Rick Walton

Pictured above is the WeTeach banner designed by Kelton Anderson, the WeTeach officer of Computer Technology. The banner is now proudly on display in the Student Center.
On December 9, 2014, CSUteach and MC² STEM High School presented a 3-D design and printing in STEM workshop.

The workshop was facilitated by Andrea Lane, MC² STEM High School graduate and current Cleveland State engineering student, and Paul Sharaba, a 2012 CSUteach graduate and current teacher at Crestwood High School.
Choose Ohio First and Noyce Scholarships

Choose Ohio First:
Up to $4,700 a year available to current science and mathematics teachers, MUST students, current CSU mathematics and science majors interested in teaching licensure, or CSUteach pre-service teachers. Information and application can be found online at http://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/centers/csuteach/ohiofirst.html

Congratulations to these Fall 2014 Choose Ohio First Scholarship Recipients!

Amy Aerni
Michael Albert
Katelyn Anderson
Kelton Anderson
Eric Backos
Lamar Bigsby
Alexandra DeSciscio
Kevin Dickard
Jacqueline Foy
Adam Gorski
Kyle Graver
Robert Gundic
Bathsheba Henry
Bethany Howard
Cathryn Humphries
Melissa Jeric
Rachel Karalitskiy
Kimberly Kentner
Emily Kiesel
Blair Knauf
Zachary Kordeleski
Richard Larkin
Johna Latimer
Joshua Malames
Tarik Maxey
Tye'Shae McClay
Cody McConaha
Kevin Moeller
Natasha Nalle
Nicholas Pennypacker
Vincent Pozar
Eli Ramos
Taylor Rembert
Paula Riedel-Phillips
Corinne Sandor
Kristen Schuler
Rachel Towne
Hilda Velez
Christopher Warner
Craig Wood
Matthew Wyman

Congratulations to these Fall 2014 Noyce Scholarship Recipients!

Sarah Avers
Wilmarie Busher-Betancourt (MUST)
Daniel Gouch (MUST)
Hayden Julius
Ilona Jurewicz
Michael Kurtz
Jason Labovitz
Edward Lehman (MUST)
Lindsay Pier
We are thankful for our Fall 2014 sites!

Anton Grdina Elementary
Berea-Midpark High School
Cleveland School of the Arts
Collinwood High School Campus
Daniel E. Morgan Elementary
East Tech Wrap Around High School
Garrett Morgan School of Science
Hannah Gibbons-Nottingham STEM
Harding Middle School
John F. Kennedy Academic Campus
John Hay High School Campus
John Hay High School Campus & CHUH
Lakewood High School
Lincoln-West High School Campus
Luis Muñoz Marín Elementary
Marion-Sterling Elementary
Max S. Hayes High School
MC2STEM
Memorial Elementary
Monticello Middle School
New Tech @ East Tech Wrap Around High School
New Tech West @ Max S. Hayes High School
Normandy High School
Orchard @ Halle STEM
Robinson G. Jones Elementary
Scranton Elementary
T.W. Harvey High School
Thomas W. Harvey High School
Walton Elementary
Warner-Girls Leadership Academy
Whitney M. Young Gifted & Talented Leadership Academy
Willson Elementary
CSUteach Faculty

Joanne E. Goodell, Ph.D.  
Professor, Mathematics  
Co-Director CSUteach

Miron Kaufman, Ph.D.  
Professor, Physics  
Co-Director CSUteach

Robert Ferguson, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Science

Debbie Jackson, Ed.D.  
Associate Professor, Science

Roland Pourdavood, Ph.D.  
Professor, Mathematics

Petru S Fodor, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Physics

Selma Koç, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction

Ulrich Zurcher, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Physics

Antoinette Marquard, M.Ed.  
Term Faculty-College  
Lecturer, Mathematics

James F. Kilbane Jr., Ph.D.  
Clinical Assistant Professor,  
STEM Education

Master Teachers

Rick Walton, M.Ed.  
Master Teacher -  
Science

Kate O’Hara, Ed.D.  
Master Teacher -  
Mathematics

GAs:  Alison Kaufman, Tiffany Williams, Adriana Trombetta, and Alexandra DiMasso

Staff

M. Renee Overton, M.Ed.  
Project Coordinator

Courtney Nudell, M.Ed.  
Student Service  
Coordinator

Lisa Suarez-Caraballo, Ph.D.  
Induction Professional  
Development Coordinator
"To prepare highly qualified STEM teachers in partnership with university education, mathematics, and science faculty and urban school districts."