

Resource Personnel
Texas State University System
Education Policy Implementation Center

EPIC Initiatives and EPIC Teacher Induction Studies

Dr. Leslie Huling is a professor at Texas State University – San Marcos and director of the TSUS Education Policy Implementation Center. As an educational researcher, Dr. Huling’s areas of specialization include school/university collaboration, teacher education, and teacher induction and mentoring. In her 20 years with Texas State University and TSUS she has generated and managed approximately \$15 million in teacher education grants from the US Department of Education, the Texas Education Agency, the Center for Research Evaluation and Advancement of Teacher Education (CREATE), and the Houston Endowment. Dr. Huling has an extensive publications record including more than 50 journal articles and two books. She is currently principal investigator for the CREATE Teacher Induction Study.

Teacher Education, Production and Retention

Dr. John Beck is a professor at Texas State University–San Marcos in the Education and Community Leadership program. During his 28 years with the university, he has served as a faculty member, Director of the Office of Teacher Education, Assistant Dean, and Dean of the College of Education, where he served for 15 years. His research interests and publication venues include teacher education, instructional technology and leadership. He has written successful proposals for external funding dealing with simultaneous renewal of schools and universities in order to establish a national center for school improvement. He currently serves as Director of Operations for the Education Policy Implementation Center (EPIC) and as Higher Education Liaison for the Center for Research, Evaluation and Advancement of Teacher Education (CREATE).

Math for English Language Learners (MELL) Initiative

Dr. Bill Jasper is an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education and is the Sam Houston State University Principal Investigator for the Texas State University System MELL Project. Dr. Jasper’s areas of expertise include professional development for in-service and pre-service mathematics teachers, teaching strategies for special populations, geometry activities, and curriculum development. In his seven years at Sam Houston State University, he has managed five grants, valued at almost \$1 million. Dr. Jasper was also awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award for SHSU in 2006, the highest award given to a teacher at his university. For the MELL initiative, he is responsible for developing a teachers guide for the TAKS Exit-level Test, a second teachers guide for middle school geometry and measurement, a mathematics glossary, and a two-day, “stand alone” training module for Regional Educational Service Centers.

Dr. Joyce Fischer received her PhD in Mathematics Education from the University of Texas at Austin and has taught in the Mathematics Department at Texas State University-San Marcos since 1989. She teaches and develops curriculum for different grade levels including the Junior Summer Math Camp Teachers' Graduate Courses. She provides professional development to mathematics teachers in regions such as the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and is the mathematics principal investigator for the Mathematics for English Language Learners (MELL) Initiative. The MELL initiative is the English Language Learners' Strand of the State of Texas Math Initiative. In Fall 2005, Dr. Fischer created an international collaborative teacher program between Texas and Mexico. When the Texas teachers are the team leaders, the program is called TEMA Matemático (Texas Empowering Mexican Achievement), and when the Mexican teachers are the team leaders, it is called META Matemática (Mexico Empowering Texas Achievement).

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Support Services

Dr. Ruth Kane is the Director of the No Child Left Behind collaboration between the Texas Education Agency and the Texas State University System. She has also served Texas State University as Director of the Texas School Safety Center. An educator for over 30 years, Dr. Kane has been the Superintendent of Schools in Hitchcock ISD, Area Superintendent for Austin ISD, a principal, an assistant principal, and a teacher. Dr. Kane has been an assistant professor (adjunct and full faculty) since 1995. She teaches courses in both the departments of Curriculum and Instruction and in Educational Administration. When appointed principal of a gang-infested, low-performing high school, her leadership and high expectations earned Lanier High School recognition as a U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School. Dr. Kane was named a 1997 *Readers Digest* "American Hero in Education," one of only ten "heroes" to be named in the nation. In 1998, Dr. Kane was selected as the "Texas Secondary Principal of the Year" and one of four finalists for "National Principal of the Year." Dr. Kane has been recognized by organizations including Leadership Austin, the Dispute Resolution Center, Victims' Services of the Austin Police Department, Woman of the Year by the Hitchcock Chamber of Commerce, and many other groups.

Media Requests should be made to Tamara Bell at bell@bellmediagroup.net or (512) 799-8629.