

**BROWARD
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**TEACHER
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TEP
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TEP Students make a SPLASH!

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Geodesic Domes: Maximizing Student Potential through Project-Based Learning

During the Fall 2011 term, Dr. Mitzi Fulwood and her MAE3941 math practicum students explored the concept of Project-Based Learning with Geodesic Domes.

The students explored the question: Why would anyone, anywhere, want to live in a geodesic dome?

Student Jose Rivera describes the project. "The Geodesic Dome project is one of the best projects the middle and secondary mathematics curriculum has to offer TEP students. We researched the history, advantages, disadvantages, and identified places throughout the entire globe that have geodesic dome structures. The project was

correlated with the STEM initiative in efforts to maximize student potential using project-based learning. We created a personal geodesic dome in groups of two to three and then constructed a dome with a diameter of 14 feet.

The project has inspired me to implement it with my students during student teaching! Thank you Dr. Fulwood!"

Check out the TEP blog at www.browardtep.blogspot.com to see a video of the MAE3941 students in action!



Graduate of the Month: Andrea Nistal

TEP's Graduate of the Month is Ms. Andrea Nistal. Ms. Nistal graduated from the Teacher Education Program in December 2010 and is currently working for Broward County Public Schools as a severe varying exceptionalities (SVE) teacher at Monarch High School in Coconut Creek.

Ms. Nistal works primarily with lower functioning 9th and 10th grade students and in her words, has the "greatest kids with the greatest job, working with amazing people." Ms. Nistal says, "I could not be happier or luckier... it is so awesome! I love what I do and I get to go to so many trainings to help build the SVE program, they have really allowed me an opportunity to help grow the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program here." Ms. Nistal has already been told that Monarch would like her back for the next academic school year.

Ms. Nistal says her words of wisdom for new students pursuing a career in education is simple: "Try every opportunity. All experiences create learning, some are great, some not, but you learn from everything. Remember, too, to always be professional and mindful of where you are at and who you are with. You are not only representing your school, but your future and your profession and you never know where you are going to end up or who you are going to work with. ESE, in particular, is a small world and anyone who likes you will snatch you up."



TEP Orientations:

Student teachers and new TEP students get their feet wet!!



On January 4, 2012 the TEP held a new student orientation. We welcomed our new, eager and energetic TEP students to the Bachelors programs! This semester we have 47 new students in all five program areas joining the journey to become teachers. We are excited to have them join our program and challenge them to become the best teachers they can be.

While we welcomed new students in, we also prepared students who are close to completing the bachelor programs. Our student teacher orientation consisted of an outstanding 48 student teachers getting ready to head to the classroom fulltime, a major increase from the 13 students embarking on the same venture this time last year! Our student teachers are currently derived from our math, exceptional student education, and biology programs. These students are placed at a variety of schools within Broward County Public Schools and are eager to begin this last step on their voyage to teaching. Good luck student teachers!

Do WHAT? WHEN?



Dates to Remember:

- 1/20/2012 – Security Clearance Badge and Placement Registration DUE
- 1/24/2012 – Debt Management Workshop (1:00pm-2:30pm, South Campus 69/133)
- 1/26/2012 – Debt Management Workshop (2:00pm-3:30pm, Central Campus 9/101)
- 1/30/2012 – Debt Management Workshop (2:30pm-4:00pm, Central Campus 9/104)
- 1/30/2012 – Overcoming Test Anxiety (1:00pm-2:00pm, South Campus 68/100)
- 1/31/2012 – Debt Management Workshop (1:30pm-3:00pm, South Campus 69/133)

****Please be sure to view the TEP Blog periodically for upcoming workshop/event dates**

Setting Goals that Work

How do you set goals for yourself that work? You can start by setting specific short-term goals: "I will turn in every critical assignment on time." "I will read the entire syllabus for each of my classes." By setting goals with timelines, you have something to work towards each day and avoid being thrown off track. Without well-defined goals, it becomes easy for you just give up.

Long-term goals are where your dreams and aspirations reside. You must put action steps together that will link your short term and long term goals together. In TEP you want to earn a bachelor's degree, so carefully plan ahead to make each semester a successful one. Take the time to write down your goals. Putting them on paper is a great motivator and can put you in the right frame of mind to move forward each day.

Ask yourself these questions:

- * What are my short-term goals?
- * What is my time frame to accomplish these goals?
- * What are my long-term goals?
- * How can I link all these together?

Remember, the Teacher Education Specialists in the TEP are always here to help you!! Call the TEP office to make an appointment! Good luck setting your short and long-term goals and we hope you have a well-planned and successful semester.

