Dr. Teresa A. Mehring

is the new dean of The Teachers College. Mehring previously was the associate dean. Mehring completed her undergraduate work at St. Mary College in Leavenworth, KS, receiving degrees in Psychology, Music Education, and Applied Music. She has a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Southwest Missouri State University, as well as a master's degree in Special Education from the University of Kansas. Her Ph.D. in Special Education/Educational Psychology and Research also is from the University of Kansas.

Mehring began her career in education as a K-12 vocal and instrumental music teacher in Leavenworth, KS. She then worked as a psychologist and special education consultant in Gladstone, Missouri. Mehring joined the faculty at Emporia State University in 1981 in the Division of Psychology and Special Education. After being associate chair and acting chair of the Psychology and Special Education Division, she was promoted to associate dean in 1989, and associate dean in 1993.

Mehring sees many challenges and opportunities for growth facing The Teachers College as we approach the twenty-first century. Many of these opportunities involve continuing to meet our constituents' needs in a cost-effective manner, with technology enabling The Teachers College to continually update the delivery systems of classes. Two other factors affecting The Teachers College are the national paradigm shift in education from a teaching focus to a learning focus, and the redesign of teacher certification and licensure.

The Teachers College possesses many strengths that will enable it to face the above-mentioned challenges and to continue to lead in the field of education. We have an extremely strong faculty that works together as a team. Our students are hard-working individuals who are willing to meet the challenges and put forth their best efforts. Add to that our excellent alumni and professional support people in the field and The Teachers College is ready to greet the twenty-first century," Mehring said. Increased collaboration among all of these groups is a goal of Mehring's. One of Mehring's favorite sayings is "TEAM --- Together Everyone Achieves More."

Another challenge for Mehring is to ensure that The Teachers College will maintain its traditions of excellence under her tutelage. "We've always been known for our leadership in education, whether it is in teacher preparation, or in preparing school psychologists and school counselors. We will continue to be leaders, not followers," she said.

Two changes currently being contemplated are a reorganization of the divisions within The Teachers College, and the development of a proposal for a doctoral degree within The Teachers College. These changes would allow The Teachers College to continue its tradition of excellence and to be more efficient and to better meet its constituent's needs. The Teachers College also is developing a five-year strategic plan to face it into the twenty-first century.

We're on the Web

Come visit The Teachers College on the World Wide Web! The World Wide Web (WWW) is part of the Internet, an international network of computer networks. The WWW is designed to help users navigate from place to place. We are on the homepage for Emporia State University. The address for ESU is <http://www.emporia.edu>. (The addresses are not a part of the address.)
When I joined the faculty at The Division of Psychology and Special Education in 1980, I made a verbal commitment to the division chair that I would remain at Emporia State for two years, thinking that I would establish myself in higher education then move on to "bigger and better opportunities." Well, it is now fifteen years later, and not only am I still at ESU, but I now have the opportunity to lead The Teachers College. In my travels and interactions with higher education colleagues throughout the country, I have personally visited, read, and heard about "bigger" institutions. I also have gleaned much information about programs of distinction both within our state and nationally. Few rival the traditions of excellence for which The Teachers College has become known.

I am proud to be a tenured member and now dean of The Teachers College at Emporia State University! I have the privilege of working with not only a dedicated, but extremely knowledgeable and talented faculty. Their accomplishments (publications, grants, and leadership in state, regional, and national organizations) grow by leaps and bounds each year. Equally important to The Teachers College are the numerous staff members who are the "heart and soul" of our daily operations—the individuals who often give the initial and sometimes most lingering impression of the university and The Teachers College. Another source of pride is our students. They are earnest, genuinely interested in learning, and committed to becoming professionals who are critical thinkers, creative planners, and effective practitioners. One of the most important groups I have the privilege of interacting with on almost a daily basis is alumni of The Teachers College. As I visit agencies, elementary and secondary schools or attend professional meetings throughout the state and nation, I inevitably run into individuals who completed one or more degrees offered within The Teachers College. I have yet to interact with an alumnus who wasn't proud to be an ESU graduate. It is that pride, echoed by the individuals who have experienced the quality of what The Teachers College has to offer, as well as the key strengths of The Teachers College "team" that has prompted me to remain at Emporia State University for the past fifteen years.

Our future holds many "challenges." Within the college, we are examining the possible redesign of three divisions—Teacher Education, Early Childhood, and Educational Administration. Accreditation is continually on our minds—our Art Therapy program recently successfully completed the accreditation process. We're now preparing in earnest for accreditation reviews from the Kansas State Board of Education, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), The National Association of School Psychologists, and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Four additional Professional Development Schools will open next fall—two in Emporia and two in Olathe. We're also completing a long range plan for The Teachers College and investigating the feasibility of our first doctoral program. At the state level, we are keeping close tabs on the pedagogy and preparedness proposal for teachers and other school practitioners. The Kansas Board of Regents has implemented a multi-year initiative called VISION 2020 which will likely result in universities "doing more with less." To say the least, we have a full agenda to respond to within coming months.

I've always been a firm believer that in every challenge, there also is "opportunity." I have no doubt that The Teachers College's recent changes (faculty, staff, students, and alumni) will proactively meet the challenges delivered above and manage others as they are added to our agenda. We will aggressively chart a course which continues our tradition of excellence.

News From Other Divisions

- Counselor Education and Rehabilitation Program: Approval was received to offer the M.Ed. in Counselor Education as a special academic extension program in Eastern Cerey through May of 2000.
- New admission standards were implemented for graduate programs and undergraduate.

- Early Childhood
  - Dr. Carol Hardwick has built a state-wide consortium of people interested in Reggio Emilia, an early childhood approach and philosophy that connects people from elementary schools, child care centers, Head Start, and private and public corporations. Recently was recognized by the Merrill Palmer Institute, which edits the official newspaper for Reggio Emilia, INNOVATIONS. The consortium held its second conference in the United States and Canada. Three symposiums about Reggio Emilia will be held this summer. For more information, contact the division at (316) 341-5828.

- Educational Administration
  - The Kansas Association for Secondary School Principals (KASSP) has announced that they will house the Associate Director in the Division of Educational Administration.

- Health, Physical Education and Recreation
  - The Division of Health will hold the annual KSHA-1st Annual Physical Education Conference on campus on June 20 and 21. Principals from across the country will visit Emporia State University to give presentations on the latest information on activity, technology, research, and teaching methods.

- Psychology and Special Education
  - The Art Therapy program received approval for national accreditation for seven years.
  - The Special Education faculty has been working diligently to review and rethink both the undergraduate and graduate special education curricula with recommendations to be finalized by the end of the academic year.
DIVISION OF TEACHER EDUCATION
HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAM CHANGES

As the largest division in The Teachers College, the Division of Teacher Education is charged with the task of preparing preservice and in-service teachers for the challenging tasks involved in meeting the needs of diverse elementary and secondary school students. To meet this responsibility, the division has raised admission standards and made changes in the undergraduate programs offered by the division. This fall, the first students began the recently approved master's degree program in Instructional Design and Technology and revisions are under way in the other graduate programs offered by the division. Despite increased admission requirements for undergraduate students, enrollments in both elementary and secondary undergraduate programs remain strong. This fall, undergraduate elementary education students will develop professional portfolios for the first time using criteria developed by the elementary education faculty. Added to the other rigorous assessments made of students in the elementary program, portfolios will offer an opportunity for additional dialogue between students and faculty and also will offer opportunties for students to provide feedback to each other.

Since the fall of 1993, elementary education students have had the option of participating in a Professional Development School in two Olathe elementary schools. Directed by Dr. Jean Morrow, the Professional Development School is a year-long program that involves the students in classroom experiences throughout their methods and student teaching semesters in place of traditional methods classes offered on campus. Research on this innovative program supports the Professional Development School model of delivery. The Professional Development School program will remain in Olathe and will expand to include two new Professional Development Schools in Emporia (USD 235). They will be housed at Stuyvesant and Waseca Allen White Elementary Schools next fall.

Beginning this school year, graduate students began to enroll in the division's new Instructional Design and Technology master's degree program. This program is designed for practicing teachers and others who wish to utilize technology to improve instructional programs. To support this new program, improvements have been made in The Teachers College computer lab and a new media lab was opened during the fall of 1994. A major addition to the media lab occurred in December of 1995, which added space and equipment for both undergraduate and graduate student use.

The Division of Teacher Education is actively involved in bringing the latest technology and methods to undergraduate and graduate students. Innovation, however, requires appropriate funding to update technology and materials used in classes. Projected cutbacks in federal and state funding for higher education threaten the positive efforts made by the division. Students, alumni, and parents are encouraged to make legislators aware of their concerns about proposed cuts in higher education and public school funding.

The generous financial support of alumni also is essential to continuing the excellence that characterizes our programs.

The Teacher Education Division offers outstanding opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students who wish to make a difference in elementary and secondary classrooms. If we can provide further information about our division, faculty, and programs, please feel free to contact me at (316) 341-5750.

Cordially,

Larry Lyman
Professor and Acting Chair
Division of Teacher Education

Professional Development Schools Expand to the Emporia Area

The Professional Development School is a collaborative, 109 percent field-based, year-long, clinical school experience for seniors from The Teachers College. Designed, implemented and evaluated by school district and college personnel, the content-based program strongly reflects three components of The Teachers College's teacher education program, which include the organization of a professional pathway; a critical thinker, creative planner, and an effective practitioner;

Four additional Professional Development Schools will open next fall — two in Emporia and two in Olathe. The EUS-Olathe PDS recently was honored with an honorable mention by the Association of Teacher Educators for the 1996 Distinguished Program in Teacher Education.
HELP US STAY IN TOUCH

Let The Teachers College and your TSU friends know where you are and what you're doing! Please return this questionnaire to The Teachers College Newsletter, c/o Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, Campus Box 4036, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS 66801-0087.

Social Security Number | Class Year
--- | ---
Phone | Division
New Address | Degree

Promotions, Job Changee, Awards, Activities, Name Changes, etc.

Please return entire page.

The Teachers College Newsletter is published by the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence.

TEACHERS COLLEGE FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

TTC Fund for Excellence is dedicated for scholarships, maintenance activities, and other critical needs. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please make your check payable to The Teachers College Fund for Excellence and mail to:

The Teachers College Fund for Excellence
Esku Foundation-909 Highland
Emporia, KS 66801-0087
(316) 341-5587

☐ My employer will match my gift.
Enclosed is a matching gift form.

☐ I would like information regarding planned giving.

☐ I would like information on establishing an endowed fund.

Donor Recognition Clubs

Amount given to TSU in the following amounts qualify donors for special recognition:

$1,000 & above President's Club
$500 KSTC Club
$150 Black and Gold Club
$100 Anniversary Club
Up to $90 Century Club