

Setting The Standard



Congratulations to Kent State's Early Childhood Education Program! From what began as a review of the teacher preparation program back in the spring of 2009, Kent State now has the first undergraduate degree program in the world to be recognized for the IB PYP Certificate in Teaching and Learning. Under this recognition, Early Childhood Educators graduating from Kent State will not only be qualified to serve in Ohio but also in any of the IB "world" schools that exist in over 128 countries. Kent State's IB PYP Coordinator, Dr. Martha Lash (pictured left), explains that "we are the first to embed the certification within the required curriculum for aspiring teachers."

Founded in the 1960's, the International Baccalaureate (IB) began as a kind of advanced placement program for students aged 16-19, only on a much larger scale... an international scale. One of the aims was to establish a unifying academic standard across nations. IB has since grown into three distinct programs: Primary Years Program (PYP), Middle Years Program (MYP), and Diploma Program (DP). The organization works with existing primary and secondary education institutions to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. Schools wishing to become IB-affiliated undergo a long, demanding process that usually begins with a feasibility assessment.

In this first year, schools determine if they are able to meet the requirements. If that answer is ultimately "yes," they will become a candidate school. This second phase can last several years, during which schools must get their teachers IB Certified (unless that teacher is, for example, a Kent State graduate who will already be IB Certified). When a school feels it is adequately prepared, it will schedule an onsite visit with the International Baccalaureate. Once completed, a school will either gain approval to become IB-affiliated or it will remain a candidate.

IB is more than a set of standards though; it represents a collection of values. The similarity of beliefs and goals shared by Kent State's Early Childhood Education (ECED) and the International Baccalaureate Organization helped motivate ECED faculty into incorporating the IB Certificate within the undergraduate degree. Over the past 3 years, ECED curricular changes have been made to further internationalize the program and shore up connections with IB philosophies. 16 faculty members have attended IB workshops to continue their professional development, tweak syllabi, and refine teaching methods. This served in KSU ECED receiving unconditional recognition by IB in July.

From here, the hope is that the relationship will continue to grow as Kent State endeavors to internationalize the university, an essential process needed to survive the expanding global climate. Dr. Lash affirms that being able to offer the IB MYP Certificate is the next project. Moving forward, she assures "teaching that emphasizes inquiry, critical thinking, integrated curriculum, and perspective taking will allow our teacher graduates to remain at the forefront of educational curriculum and pedagogy. We want to continue leading the way in educational practices and supporting schools in teacher preparation. We do all of this because of the children in preschool and primary schools who will be better served by quality education and the attributes of international mindedness."

Submitted by Robert Dowden

Call for Submissions
The Read Review welcomes news items, feature articles, and photographs of cultural or international importance.

Please submit materials to Robert Dowden in the Gerald H. Read Center for International & Intercultural Education, located in White Hall 215 or-
rdowden@kent.edu

Upcoming Events →

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reception

All International Students and EHHS Faculty are welcome to attend.

September 21st, 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m. Room 200
White Hall

Read Lecture Cultural Dialogue Series

Mini-study of socialism in education, health, and human services featuring local and global experts.

Light refreshments included

Socialism in Venezuela

September 26th, 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Room 200
White Hall

Guest Speaker: Felix Sierra

Socialism in Cuba

October 2nd, 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Room 200
White Hall

Guest Speakers: Dr. Anne Morrison and
Dr. Mark James

Socialism in China

October 10th, 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Room 200
White Hall

Socialism in Canada

October 16th, 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Room 200
White Hall

Ontario Ohio Symposium

October 25th, 9:00 a.m.-4:30p.m.
Kent Student Center

The Gerald H. Read Distinguished Lecture



Dr. Yong Zhou

October 25th @ 7:00 p.m.,
KIVA

*World Class Education:
Educating Creative and
Entrepreneurial Students*



Ebed Sulbaran, Rose Onders, Dr. Linda Robertson, Robert Dowden

The Gerald H. Read Center would like to welcome everyone to the new academic year. Best wishes to everyone in their educational endeavors!

COST

The Making of World Class Teachers!

COST – the Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching, is a collaboration of 15 U. S. colleges and universities that provide opportunities for students to have quality student teaching experiences in overseas settings. Kent State EHHS has been an active member of COST for more than 25 years. Dr. Ken Cushner served as Director from 1995 – 2000, and assumed the role again in 2011.

Since its inception in 1972, COST has arranged for more than 1,000 education majors to fulfill their student teaching requirements in national schools within English-speaking countries as well as American or international schools in non-English speaking countries.

Students participating in COST typically live with host families where possible, thus gaining the opportunity to become immersed in the local culture of the country where they are placed. Even when students live elsewhere, (e.g., local apartments, bed and breakfast accommodations, university housing), they are intimately connected to their surroundings through daily work in schools. Research on the outcome of such experiences concludes that participants return to the United States having gained firsthand experience alongside professional peers, students, and their families, as well as a broadened sense of self within another cultural context. Participants have an increased sense of confidence, improved self-efficacy, and a greater sense of how to integrate an international perspective into their profession as a teacher.

We currently have three students overseas – Katelyn Swanger and Megan Tate in Ireland, and Carissa Sampson in Mexico. Look for COST updates in each edition of the *Read Review* and learn more about COST at www.costprogram.org. Don't forget to have your students mark their calendars for November 15th at 2:00p.m. in the Read Room (during International Education Week). We will be hosting a COST Information Meeting and Panel Presentation with former COST participants, including a Skype link to Mexico where two former COST student teachers and one current student are teaching.

Submitted by Dr. Ken Cushner