RESEARCH AND EVALUATION BUREAU



Summer Semester Newsletter

REB Project Highlights...

Toyota STEAM

Lead Researcher: Deepa Shanadi

REB is collaborating with the Gerald H. Read Center and the Institute of International Education (IIE) to evaluate the Toyota Education Initiatives in STEAM Innovation (Toyota STEAM). This is a professional development effort involving a teacher exchange between the secondary teachers in the Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) and the Academy of Singapore Teachers (AST).

AAPS teachers will travel to Singapore in July to learn how Singapore teachers approach STEAM education. Han Zhang, a REB doctoral graduate assistant and a member of the evaluation team, will accompany the educators to Singapore.



Toyota STEAM is funded by Toyota Motor Sales, USA and implemented by the IIE with the ultimate aim of inspiring students to study and pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) fields.

The project evaluation period is sixteen months (April 2014-July 2015).

The REB multi-disciplinary evaluation team includes Deepa Shanadi, program evaluator, Han Zhang, and Linda Robertson, director of The Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education (CIIE) at EHHS.

Other REB project highlights are continued on page 2.

Data Lab Coordinator: Stacie Berg

The REB Data Lab can now receive

audio files through email to be tran-

scribed electronically using Accel-

lion, a secure file transfer program.

Unlike programs like Google Drive

or Dropbox, Accellion has been ap-

proved by the KSU Institutional Re-

Traditionally, clients of the Data Lab

have been required to drop off their

audio files on a flashdrive. Accellion

can serve as an alternative for facul-

ty or graduate students who are not

frequently on campus or are located

at branch campuses. Please contact

Stacie Berg at aberg@kent.edu if

you have any questions about trans-

ferring audio files through Accellion or about Data Lab services in gen-

eral.

view Board for file sharing.

SPOTLIGHT STAFF MEMBER **Justin Lorko**

June 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1



I grew up in Fairview Park, OH. I obtained my 7-12 Social Studies teaching license after graduating with a major in History and a minor in Education from Wittenberg University in 2011.

I am currently in the School Counseling program and will hopefully graduate with my M.Ed. in December of 2014. After graduation, I would like to find a job counseling in an elementary environment or teaching Social Studies in a middle school.

I have always had a passion for traveling and would also be open to teaching or counseling abroad. Further, I would like to become certified in play therapy.

Fun Facts:

- I have a Scottish Terrier named Commodore Oliver Hazard
- Perry.
- I attended the University of Essex in England for a semester.
- I have a landscaping business.
- I want to live in a Frank Lloyd Wright house when I grow up.

IN THE DATA LAB...

Accellion

Points of interest in this issue:

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Spotlight Staff Member

Justin Lorko

In the Data Lab...

Accellion

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REB Project Highlights...

- Toyota STEAM
- **CLiPS Envoys**
- Literacy Pyramid
- Minding the Gap

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What We Do

EHHS Faculty & Grad Students

- For Unfunded Research
- For Funded Research

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Overview...

Meet the Staff

REB Project Highlights Cont...

CLiPS Envoys Program

Lead Researcher: Mark Smilaycoff

The CLiPS Envoys Program brings high school students from Cleveland and East Cleveland to the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) campus where they participate in research with a graduate student in the National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded Center for Layered Polymeric Systems. The pairing of each high school student with a

graduate student is the focus of the Program, and hence our evaluation, which began in 2009 and is currently on-going.

New cohorts of high school students are recruited each year as others graduate and move on to college—some at CWRU. As a result, we are constantly collecting and analyzing new data. A report of findings is prepared each year. We are currently reporting on the 2013-14 Program year. The NSF funding for CLiPS will end in 2016.



Literacy Pyramid

Lead Researcher: Mark Smilaycoff

The Literacy Pyramid project is a Race to the Topfunded, early reading intervention program in the Akron Public Schools (APS).



The evaluation focuses on 2nd grade students in Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) and follows the students as they take the OAA Reading test in the 3rd grade. LLI students are compared with non-LLI students each year. A report of findings is prepared each year. We are now completing our third year evaluation using data from

the third cohort of students and will complete one final evaluation using data from the fourth cohort (when available). APS's Race to the Top funding ends in September 2014.

Minding the Gap

Lead Researcher: Mark Smilaycoff

Minding the Gap is a Kent State University (KSU)-University of Akron (UA) consortium addressing the high school-higher education alignment issue. This project is a part of the statewide effort to eliminate the need for remediation at Ohio's public colleges and universities. The KSU-UA consortium also includes ten local high

schools: Akron Digital Academy, Aurora, Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Manchester, Kent Roosevelt, Springfield, Stow-Munroe Falls, Tallmadge, and Warren Harding. The various interventions address needs in English/language arts and mathematics and include participants from the College of Education and the College of Arts and Scienc-



es. Minding the Gap is in its third and final year of funding.

The evaluation report is due to the Ohio Department of Education in July 2014.

INTERESTED IN RESEARCH SERVICES?

What We Do:

Consultation Services

- Research design
- Statistical design

Data Analysis

- SPSS database development
- Quantitative data analysis in SPSS
- Explanation of SPSS output

Survey Development

- Consultation in the use of online surveys, including Qualtrics and SurveyMonkey
- Survey layout and design (online and paper and pencil)



Data Lab Services

- Transcriptions from mp3 files, standardsize cassette tapes, or Accellion
- Data entry of hardcopy survey responses into SPSS, both quantitative and qualitative data

EHHS FACULTY AND GRAD STUDENTS

For Unfunded Research:

Services for Faculty

EHHS faculty receive an unlimited number of hours of college-supported REB consultation services on unfunded projects. EHHS faculty receive an unlimited number of college-supported hours of Bureau Data Lab services for unfunded projects.

For Funded Research:

We provide the same services at cost.

Services for Graduate Students

Doctoral students at dissertation level and Master's students at thesis level receive 40 hours of college-supported consultation services. Graduate students receive 40 hours of Data Lab services (not to be interchanged with the 40-hour allotment for consultation services).

Need Help With Grant Evaluation?

- The Bureau provides comprehensive multimethods program evaluation services based on your project needs and specifications.
- The Bureau's highly skilled staff has extensive experience delivering high quality, evidence-driven evaluations of international, national, state, and local development programs in the areas of health, human services, and education.
- We serve as an active member of your grant writing team by providing expertise for the evaluation component of your project for your grant application.
- We are always interested in partnering with individuals or organizations to provide evaluation and assessment services.
- Please contact us to discuss your specific research and evaluation needs. We look forward to hearing from you.



Overview...

Contact Us

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The Research and Evaluation Bureau offers comprehensive research, evaluation, and assessment services to schools, medical and health related institutions, human services agencies, community organizations, businesses, faculty, graduate students, and other individuals. The mission of the Bureau is to provide research and evaluation services that assist in enhancing education, health, and human service outcomes worldwide.

In addition, we work with you to develop and write a project evaluation and/ or research plan, with the agreement that if the project is funded, the Bureau will be the project's evaluation team. In most cases, the Bureau is considered by funding agencies (including NSF) to be *external evaluators*.

Meet the Staff

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