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**CEHD**

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

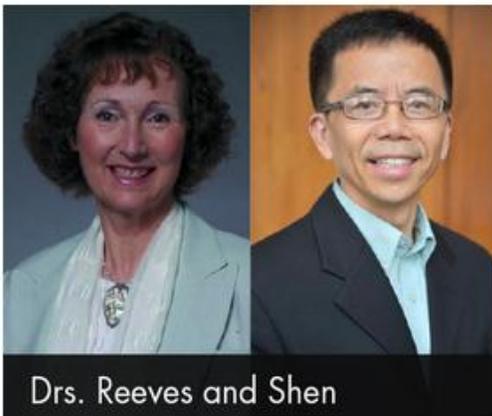
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**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**\$17.8 MILLION**

College of Education and Human Development faculty have been awarded a collective \$17.8 million in external funding from the U.S. Department of Education since August 2017. A \$12.5 million project titled, High-Impact Leadership for School renewal (HIL), awarded to Drs. Patricia Reeves and Jianping Shen, was the largest single grant ever awarded to the University.

## LEARN MORE



Drs. Reeves and Shen

- [High-Impact Leadership for School Renewal](#)
- [English Learners and Teacher Education](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Preparation in Autism Services](#)
- [A User-Friendly Tool for Designing Cluster Randomized Trials with Power and Relevance](#)
- [College Assistance for Parenting and Education](#)

## OTHER STORIES



### CEHD ALUMNI AWARDS

Four Alumni honored at annual Golden Apple and Keystone Awards Reception.

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### TATE CENTER GRANT AWARDS

Two faculty receive Emerging and Distinguished Scholar awards from CEHD.

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### PROFESSOR EMERITUS PASSES

Professor emeritus, and legendary track coach passes away at 96.

[Click for more >>](#)



### WMU TEACHING HONORS

Two CEHD faculty receive WMU's highest honor, the Distinguished Teaching award.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**11.01.17** [CEHD Scholarships Open](#)

**11.30.17** [International Reception](#)

**12.16.17** [Fall Commencement](#)



Editors: Nicole Leffler,  
Tyler Sonnenberg-Ward  
[wmich.edu/education](http://wmich.edu/education)



# WMU researchers get \$12.5 million grant for school leadership renewal

contact: Cheryl Roland  
October 10, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Two longtime school leadership researchers at Western Michigan University will use **one of the largest single grants ever awarded to the University** for a three-year effort aimed at intense school leadership development in high-poverty schools across West Michigan.

A \$12.5 million award from the U.S. Department of Education will fund the High-Impact Leadership for School Renewal Project, led by **Dr. Patricia Reeves**, associate professor, and **Dr. Jianping Shen**, the John E. Sandberg Professor of Education and the Gwen Frostic Endowed Chair, in WMU's Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology. The project focuses on two major outcomes—developing a strong pool of practicing school leaders and improving student achievement.

Working with a pool of elementary schools in 20 West Michigan counties, the project will support teams of school principals and teacher leaders by:

- Providing intense professional development and support, and money for renewal projects for teams of leaders in 75 schools that are implementing a set of new literacy essentials.
- Placing a trained team of school renewal coaches in each project school.
- Providing a lower level of professional development support and funding for leaders in an additional 75 schools.
- Applying a set of proven school leadership practices for school renewal and sustainable implementation.



*Reeves*

The project is a collaborative effort involving WMU and two statewide initiatives called the Reading Now Network and the General Education Leadership Network. Patricia Reeves, the project director, says the initiative began among a group of West Michigan school superintendents determined to improve student reading levels by working together to build a school leadership model around the practices they saw in use at high-performing schools.

"Initiatives that build from the ground up, like this one, are so precious," says Reeves. "They can ultimately lead to real change, and our job is to provide the support necessary to make this enormously ambitious project work and keep a complex range of moving parts in sync."

The schools selected to take part in the effort will be from a 190-school pool in Regions 3 and 7 of the Michigan Association of School Administrators. Region 3 includes Allegan, Barry, Ionia,

Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola and Ottawa counties. MASA's Region 7 includes Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St Joseph and Van Buren counties.

Reeves says the initiative grew out of work that began among school superintendents in Region 3 who formed the Reading Now Network to achieve equity of opportunity for all students regardless of school, family or community circumstances. The superintendents identified five schools that were outperforming expectations based on their demographics and deployed a team to conduct case studies on the leadership practices found at those schools. To complement and extend their findings, the Reading Now Network leadership endorsed the General Education Leadership Network Literacy Essentials developed by a group of literacy specialists. As a result of the Reading Now Network's efforts, more than 95 percent of the school districts in Regions 3 and 7 have made a commitment to the Reading Now Network findings and the GELN Literacy Essentials.

"With this grant, we will focus on turning that commitment into deep implementation and results," says Reeves.



*Shen*

Each of the 75 high-need schools selected will receive professional development for the principal and a team of three teachers who may be future principals. The school team will be assigned a team of coaches who will work with them over a 30-month period. Each of the schools selected also will receive \$20,000 over the 30-month period for school renewal efforts.

WMU will provide project management and coordinate all the training, development and support work by coaches and conduct data collection and analysis. University researchers will be tracking the schools for progress in seven areas of school leadership considered critical for school renewal. They include such qualities as commitment to school renewal and data-informed decision-making.

"Building on the work previously funded by three school leadership grants and two Wallace Foundation grants," says project co-director Shen, "this project will continue to develop and validate the renewal model, as opposed to the reform model, for school improvement."

In addition to the 75 schools selected for the initial three years of the funded period, a control group of another 75 schools will receive a less-intense level of leadership development support

and \$4,000 each during the last six months of the grant for school renewal work. Reeves says if the project is funded for a fourth and fifth year, those 75 control-group schools also will receive the same full leadership development treatment as the initial group.

"We're hoping to see impressive enough results in student achievement in the initial three years that we will be funded for two additional years," she notes.

The project will be led by Reeves and her WMU colleague Jianping Shen as well as two educators from Ottawa County—**Dr. Kyle Mayer**, assistant superintendent for instructional services with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, and **Douglas Greer**, director of school improvement with the OAISD.

## Reeves

Reeves specializes in educational leadership and evaluation, measurement and research. She is co-author of School ADvance, one of two research-based performance evaluation systems for school leaders validated by the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness and adopted by more than 80 percent of Michigan school districts. Her research interests include school district and superintendent leadership, the development and credentialing of school leaders, educator performance assessment and evaluation, and education policy. Before joining the WMU faculty, Reeves held several positions, from teacher to superintendent, in the Vicksburg Community Schools.

## Shen

Shen, a 2017 WMU Distinguished Grant Awardee and co-director of the project, has led numerous large research projects focused on such topics as principal leadership, school renewal, data-informed decision-making, teacher retention and attrition, alternative certification, and systemic change.

# Professors get \$2.6 million to train English as second language learners

contact: Mark Schwerin  
October 6, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—In response to the exploding number of English language learners in Michigan, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition has awarded a \$2.6 million grant



Piazza

to a team of Western Michigan University professors to boost professional development efforts for teachers working with English learners.

**WMU is the only university in Michigan among this year's awardees to obtain funding.**

## About the project

**Drs. Selena Protacio** and **Susan Piazza**, associate professor and professor, respectively, and **Virginia David** and **Hsiao-Chin Kuo**, assistant professors, all in the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, will use the five-year training grant to undertake the ELATE program, English Learners and Teacher Education. The effort will provide a rigorous and comprehensive professional development program for both pre-service and in-service teachers. WMU pre-service teachers who have an interest in earning their ESL endorsement can apply to be part of the pre-service cohort wherein they would take three out of seven courses in the program. The classes would be paid for by the grant.

Meanwhile, WMU has partnered with six local education agencies, which have high needs in terms of educators with an expertise in working with English learners. Project ELATE will provide substantial financial support for these in-service teachers as they work toward earning the English as a second language endorsement. In addition, other activities of Project ELATE include hosting an annual ESL conference as well as a Family and Community Engagement Symposium.

## A pivotal effort

"Being awarded this National Professional Development grant will allow us to increase the number of teachers with an English as Second Language endorsement in the state, and particularly in southwest Michigan," says Protacio, the project's principal investigator. "This is pivotal in addressing the shortage of ESL-endorsed teachers in the state."

The English learners those trained professionals go on to teach will benefit in the end, she notes.

"Our hope is that through our grant project, we ultimately will be able to help improve the educational experiences of the increasing number of English learners in the state," Protacio says.



*David*



*Kuo*

# An interdisciplinary collaboration earns faculty in the special education and behavior analysis programs a U.S. Department of Education grant

Oct. 2, 2017

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Drs. Kristal Ehrhardt (P.I.), Sarah Summy, (Co-P.I.), Emily Curiel (Co-P.I.) and Dan Morgan (Collaborating Faculty) from the Department



of Special Education and Literacy Studies along with Drs. Denise Ross (Co-P.I.), Jessica Frieder (Co-P.I.) and Al Poling (Collaborating Faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences) have been awarded \$1,182,144 from the U.S. Department of Education to implement a project entitled: **Interdisciplinary Preparation in Autism Services (IPA)**.

This five-year project will prepare 24 master's-level special education teachers and behavior analysts. Upon program completion, scholars will earn a Master of Arts degree in either Special Education or Behavior Analysis. All participants will be eligible to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst National Exam. Special education graduates may seek an autism teaching endorsement. Scholars will attain competencies in (a) applied behavior analysis, (b) the 27 evidence-based practices for children and youth identified on the autism spectrum, (c) multi-tiered systems of support, (d) data-based decision making, and (e) coaching and supervision of school support services personnel serving students with autism spectrum disorders.

# Professors awarded Institute of Education Science grant

Aug. 22, 2017

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Prof. Jessaca Spybrook and Prof. Elizabeth Tipton (Teachers College) were recently awarded a three-year grant from the Institute of Education Science, the research branch of the U.S. Department of Education. The project, “A User-Friendly Tool for Designing Cluster Randomized Trials with Power and Relevance” seeks to improve the planning and design of cluster randomized trials in education. More specifically, the researchers will develop a user-friendly webtool for planning cluster randomized trials which combines three separate design considerations: generalizability, power to detect the average treatment effects, and power to detect moderator effects. The award totals \$893,737 with a subcontract to WMU of \$285,176.



# CEHD department chair awarded U.S. Department of Education grant to provide support to WMU student parents

Oct. 2, 2017

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Dr. Regena Nelson (Co-PI), chair of the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies, and interim chair of the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, and Kathy Gilbert, manager of WMU's Children's Place Learning Center, have been awarded a \$680,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant funds will go toward a project titled College Assistance for Parenting and Education (CAPE) and will help provide financial, academic and social support to student parents at WMU. This grant will provide reduced-rate child care tuition, academic support and social support. The community-based parent support program will provide networking opportunities through Family Fun Nights that are held once a semester, access to parenting workshops, and opportunities to engage in their child's education. This project specifically address the needs and barriers most often identified by student parents: affordable child care and social and academic support structures.

