A Note from the HPSE Program Coordinator: Dr. Anna Neumann

Dear HPSE students and friends of HPSE:

With each issue of the HPSE newsletter, we must pause and take stock while also congratulating ourselves and each other. In these pauses, we must give thanks for the opportunities we have had to learn – on our own and in/from community. Not least, we must consider our hopes and thoughts for the future. This is as true of our community as it is of ourselves as individuals.

Our pausing and taking stock forces us to see how lively, exciting, and rich an intellectual environment we've created - and continue to create -- in TC's HPSE. As several of the stories in this issue of the newsletter show, our students work closely with faculty who are leaders in research, policy, and practice throughout higher education as an expanding social institution. So much of our research, in fact, draws on practice and bears on it – so that it is hard to separate it from on-the-ground practitioner work. Research and practice overlap. In this spirit, the HPSE faculty work hard, by way of our teaching and advising, to help our students position themselves as research-savvy practitioners, and practice-anchored researchers in varying subfields of higher education: in teaching and learning improvement, assessment studies, students affairs administration and leadership, college leadership, building and leading campus cultures of diversity, sharpening the powers of affirmative action, designing faculty development for enhanced learning, financial management of higher education. In the near future we will be adding, as well, expertise in civic learning and philanthropic leadership for diverse institutions and communities. All to say: In TC's higher education program, research supports practice, and practice – the challenges and opportunities it offers – is the launch pad for our research. Both sides of this "mission" - research and practice - help to advance the learning of our whole community.

We hope you will enjoy reading the sampling of evidence around much that I say above that's reported in this issue of the newsletter. My very sincere thanks to Jessie Ostrow for her superb editorial leadership of the HPSE newsletter this year!

With all good wishes, Anna Neumann Professor of Higher Education Coordinator, Program in Higher and Postsecondary Education Director, MetroCiti – Metropolitan Colleges Institute for Teaching Improvement Chair, Department of Organization and Leadership





HPSE Students Win NASPA Case Study Competition. Congratulations to TC HPSE M.A. students Phoebe Kingsak, Scott Van Pelt and Alexander Williams on winning first place in the 2014 NASPA Case Study Competition! The Case Study Competition provides graduate students and new professionals the opportunity to showcase their knowledge of the Student Affairs field. Phoebe, Scott, and Alexander were presented with an award during the NASPA Awards luncheon in Baltimore, MD, and they discussed their case study analysis during a presentation session. (bottom photograph to the right)







Greetings from Dr. Corbin M. Campbell



Page 2

Happy 2014! Spring semester brings a new mix of graduates, job searching, conference season, certification exams, culminating papers, and, of course, continued learning about the field of higher education. As I reflected on the journey for the upcoming graduates of HPSE, I was reminded of the importance of the HPSE curricular framework as you go out and work in the field—in whatever facet of our profession. As institutional researchers, student affairs administrators, policy-makers, advisors, or faculty, you will be equipped with a broad understanding of higher education -- teaching, learning, and development; organizational analysis; and social/cultural context. When I was an Assistant Director of Housing at George Washington University, I had just finished my Masters in student affairs. I felt very

equipped to handle and understand students' development and how that applied to my practice. Yet, as a "middle manager," I had to work hard to understand the role of the organization in student learning and development and the broader interactions between the institution and the local community of Washington DC. I am excited about the knowledge that you have gained in HPSE and the insight it will provide into your careers. I encourage you to think about how this knowledge sets you apart in the field of higher education and will act as a springboard to your leadership in the field.

While I am on maternity leave, I will miss seeing HPSE students on a daily basis, but know that I will be hearing about all of the great things you are accomplishing, and more importantly, what you are learning, the impact you are making in your work, and the kinds of questions you are asking about higher education in your spring semester. Best wishes!

Master of Arts Advisor Advice Corner

capacity as advisor to the M.A. program aligned with an institution's mission. to contribute my advice to the HPSE Newsletter. This time, I thought I would do a little crowd-sourcing to see what our alumni have to say to graduating M.A. students who are facing a job search and the early days of launching a career in higher education. Here is what they had to say:

Shira Weiner advises current M.A. students to do as many informational interviews as possible. I would add that when you do arrange an informational interview, treat it as an interview – dress your best, have your CV and even references handy, and do your research about the institution.

Sophia Li reminds students to explore broadly, "Be open to job positions even if they don't seem to be a 'perfect' fit - you never know where it may take you!" However, do not commit until you are certain of the "fit." Francisco Mena warns, "I had the wrong attitude graduating from TC. I didn't care where I worked as long as I got a job." A better approach, he says, would be "to figure out which types of institutions you would prefer to work in." This will help identify institutions that might "align with one's values." Along the same lines, Jesse Nguyen

Twice a year, I am asked in my says, "It's helpful to be personally Not sure if I'd be happy working at a place where values are different than mine."

> Francisco reinforces Shira Weiner's advice, saying, "Once one identifies preferred institutions network with at least 2 higher education professionals from your target institution list. For example, if one is interested in public community colleges in NYC then make a list of every CUNY community college and network with at least 2 working professionals from each college. Try reach out to these individuals to get informational interviews that will help you learn more about the college and possibly help get your application flagged once you've applied."

> Heather Correa warns, "Don't burn bridges with your grad cohort. I see many other grads getting very competitive this time of year. The friends that I made in my cohort at TC are still some of the people that I turn to first for advice, even 6 years later." Entering a new field is challenging. Heather advises, "Embrace that you will be learning in your first year and make time to learn the job. Once you have the job down then start volunteering for additional professional development oppor-

By: Dr. Monica Coen Christensen

tunities and committees." Andrea Johnson advises, "Avoid the

silos that often form in organizations. Talk to people from different faculties and departments. Introduce yourself



every chance you get. It not only helps build your network, but it's a lot of fun getting to know people from around the campus!"

To the wise advice of our alumni I would add...stay connected to TC. By connecting to me on LinkedIn and by joining the HPSE at Teachers College group you keep up your network. I often reach out to specific alumni when I become aware of a job opening I think would be a match for them...but I can't think of you if I don't know where you are and what you need next. Professional organization conferences are also a valuable resource for staying connected, as well as for broadening your network.

Research in Higher Education Practice

Page 3

By: Diana Chadi



Prior to coming to TC, I held a full-time position at a university and saw my schooling as a separate entity. However, since coming to TC, my educational experience in the HPSE program has illuminated the integration of research and practice.

As practitioners, we are often faced with questions like "How effective is my programming?", "How many students are affected by a new decision being made at the institution?", "How are faculty influenced by emerging technological trends?" In turn, there is much that practitioners can learn and teach when thinking about how to answer these questions. First, before attempting to answer the question, a practitioner should survey the literature to understand current trends that already exist. Second, by conducting a survey or other type of data collection, the practitioner should examine their own institution's trend and learn about how it fits in to the greater body of existing knowledge. Third, a practitioner should then use their newly acquired knowledge to inform future decisions.

Furthermore, by being engaged in practice, practitioners can develop new research to contribute to a specific discipline. For example, administrators working within higher education settings can observe emerging trends within a given institution and work toward developing a research agenda (formulating a research question, identifying a conceptual framework, research design, data collection, data analysis, interpretation and reporting), thereby contributing to research in higher education.

While at first it may seem as if research and being a practitioner are disconnected, in truth, they are inextricably linked. Without research available to inform practice, much of what a practitioner may do or decide will likely be based on hearsay or anecdotal evidence at best. Similarly, without practice available to inform research, our research would be all for naught. As emerging researchers and practitioners, we must remember this lesson in hopes of producing our best work.

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Kevin Kinser

Dr. Kevin Kinser, Associate Professor of Educational Administration and Policy Studies and Chair of Educational Policy at the University at Albany, is an M.A., ED.M, and ED.D alum of the Higher and Postsecondary Education Program at Teachers College, Columbia University. A novel concept at the time, Dr. Kinser's dissertation focused on online learning in the late 1990's. Dr. Kinser's research today is deeply rooted in his TC HPSE dissertation.

Dr. Kinser currently has two primary threads of research, one being for -profit (proprietary) higher education, and the other being international higher education policy. The connection between these two research interests is deep, according to Dr. Kinser, as it leads to thinking about how higher education changes as it enters the global market and how it is engaged in the world as a industry. He is the author of more than 40 articles, chapters, and scholarly reports, and regularly pre-

sents papers at conferences in the Unit- Lee Knefelkamp, who he recalls was ed States and abroad. He is the coeditor (with James JF Forest) of Higher Education in the United States: An Encyclopedia (ABC-CLIO, 2002), a comprehensive two-volume overview of American postsecondary education since World War II, and the author of From Main Street to Wall Street: The Transformation of For-Profit Higher Education (Wiley, 2006). His most recent books are The Global Growth of Private Higher Education (Wiley, 2010) and Multinational Colleges and Universities: Leading, Governing, and Managing International Branch Campuses (Jossey-Bass, 2011).

In reflecting upon his scholarly development at Teachers College, Dr. Kinser is thankful for the guidance of three primary mentors. He remembers Dawn Person, who helped him understand that there is a discipline and a literature of higher education, something he could think deeply about. He reminisces fondly on the mentorship of

By: Jessie Ostrow

"inspirational," and got him to think about big questions, and to think big thoughts. In addition, he is thankful for the time he spent as a research assistant for then TC President Arthur Levine, who helped him think about how these ideas resonated beyond scholars, but also within policymakers and the general public. Taken together, Dr. Kinser believes that his TC mentors helped shape him into the scholar he is today. Dr. Kinser advises TC HPSE students to "seek out opportunities, no one will hand them to you on a silver platter. Start out by taking charge of your own career."



In Fall 2013, Professor Anna Neumann and Professor Corbin M. Campbell were awarded the Teachers College Provost's Investment Fund (\$20,000), entitled Reinventing Research on Practice for Higher Education, now supporting the Defining Good Teaching Project and the College Educational Quality Research Project.

The Defining Good Teaching Project

and improve teaching and learning in higher education, Professor Anna Neumann has launched the Defining Good Teaching research project, which investigates how liberal education comes to life today in college classrooms, in the humanities and sciences, among increasingly diverse students. This study aims to define liberal education teaching and learning processes with attention to how teachers and students interact as they explore subject matter ideas.

The Defining Good Teaching study comes at a critical moment when support for the liberal arts and sciences is waning while attention to academic accountability is on the rise. As such, developing an understanding of and language for the meaning of liberal

In efforts to better understand education in and for "our times" has never been more pressing. Liberal education has long been a key feature of American higher education as it seeks to ignite students' abilities as critical, reflexive, and civically engaged citizens. The spark of liberal learning occurs at the intersection of key disciplinary ideas, students' culturally informed prior knowledge, and teachers' pedagogical moves to draw connections between their students' prior knowledge and the subject matter. However, what this actually looks (and sounds) like in college classrooms is not clear and may vary depending on the unique subject matters, students, and teachers in question. The Defining Good Teaching research team strives to understand what it means to enact teaching that is attentive to students' liberal learning.

The College Educational Quality Research Project

Currently, in both the policy stream and the public eye, there is a focus on insuring that more students receive higher education and on lowering the cost of higher education. There is also growing concern about the affordability of college, a need for a greater proportion of US workers to have a college degree, and the need for better and more transparent data about colleges and universities. Professor Corbin Campbell has launched the College Educational Quality study to gather this data. In fact, presently there is no comprehensive data available for policymakers, the public, and prospective students and families to know about the quality of the education that is happening inside the walls of a college or university—and how that quality compares to the quality at other colleges and universities. To fill this gap, the College Educational Quality (CEQ) project aims to create alternative, innovative, and comprehensive

measures of educational quality across institutions that could contribute to public understanding of college and university quality. And in the fall of 2014, with Professor Campbell as the Principal Investigator, the CEQ study is scheduled to conduct a multiinstitutional pilot study. During our multi-institutional pilot study members of the CEQ team will visit colleges and universities participating in the study to observe classroom instruction. We will also collect and analyze syllabi from faculty members at participating institutions and we will survey students about their learning experiences at these institutions.

To carry out this study the College Educational Quality team has over 70 research team members. The national research team consists of TC HPSE doctoral students Marisol Jimenez, Jessie Ostrow, and Ed.M alum Deniece Dortch. Additional research

By: Jolie Woodson

This study has potential implications for faculty development as well as for policy and leadership aimed at shaping the larger public discourse about "good teaching" in higher education.

This project is led by Principal Investigator Anna Neumann with project management by HPSE doctoral candidate and instructor Liza Bolitzer, and research assistance from HPSE doctoral students Dianne Delima, Jessie Ostrow, Elizabeth Strauss, and Jolie Woodson. The team has also recently been joined by M.A .students Kate Snyder Mazal and Veronica Puente-Arroyo. Members of the research team are conducting class observations of two liberal education classes in science and the humanities and carrying out interviews with professors this semester, with more to follow in the fall.

By: Conrad Walker

team members from the HPSE program are Ed.M students, Theresa Cruz Paul, Conrad Walker, Diana Chadi, Chris Chamberlin, Joo-Hwan Lee, and Amy Deiner; and the following M.A. students: Habiba Braimah, Jessica Macklin, Clifton Shambry, Veronica Puente, Karen Dilsizian, and Alison Fanizzi. There are also over 60 regional research team members throughout the country. In the long term, the research team may (1) use the measures obtained from the pilot studies to collaborate with provosts and other academic administrators, policymakers, and students/parents to create useable metrics on educational quality at the institutional level; and (2) develop a national center of institutions with measures of educational quality regarding academic rigor, teach-

Page 4

ing quality, and learning objectives. To learn more about this study, please visit: tc.edu/ceq

Page 5

Congratulations to HPSE Faculty with Publications

Campbell, C.M. (2014). *College educational quality project: 2013 pilot study technical report* New York, NY: College Educational Quality (CEQ) Project, Teachers College, Columbia University. http://collegeedquality.weebly.com/results.html

Campbell, C.M. (2014). *College educational quality at two selective research institutions: Are they pushing the boundaries of student's capabilities?* New York, NY: College Educational Quality (CEQ) Snapshot Report, Teachers College, Columbia University. http://collegeedquality.weebly.com/results.html

Campbell, C. M. & Cabrera, A. (in press). *Making the mark: Are deep learning and GPA related?* Research in Higher Education.

Dougherty, K.J., Jones, S.M., Lahr, H., Natow, R.S., Pheatt, L., & Reddy, V. (2014). *The political origins of "performance funding 2.0" in Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee: Theoretical perspectives and comparisons to performance funding 1.0*. Community College Research Center, <u>http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/political-origins-performance-funding-2.html</u>

Dougherty, K.J. (2013). *How will new college scorecard matter: The benefits, limits, and costs of the federal push for greater consumer information and institutional accountability,* Sociology of Education Section Newsletter, 16 (3) p. 5-6.

Dougherty, K.J., Jones, S.M., Lahr, H., Natow, R.S., Pheatt, L., & Reddy, V. (2013). *Envisioning performance funding impacts: The espoused theories of action for state higher education performance funding in three states*. Community College Research Center, <u>http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/envisioning-performance-funding-impacts.html</u>

Dougherty, K.J., and Reddy, V. (2013). *Performance funding for higher education: What are the mechanisms? What are the impacts?* ASHE Higher Education Report: Volume 39, Number 2. pp. 1-133.

Neumann, A. & **Bolitzer, L.A.** (in press) *Finding and fostering learning: What college and university leaders need to know and what they can do.* In P. Eddy (Ed.) Connecting Learning Across the Institution: New Directions for Higher Education (Number 165). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

Neumann, A. & Pallas, A. "Critical Policy Analysis, the Craft of Qualitative Research, and Analysis of Data on the Texas Top 10% Law." In *Critical Approaches to the Study of Higher Education*, edited by Ana Martinez Aleman, Brian Pusser, and Estela M. Bensimon. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, *under contract*.

O'Meara, KA, Lounder, A. & Campbell, C. M. (in press). *To heaven or hell: Sensemaking about why faculty leave.* Journal of Higher Education.

Terosky, A., O'Meara, KA, & **Campbell, C. M.** (in press). *Advancing together: Associate professors' sense of agency in career.* Journal of Diversity in Higher Education.

Congratulations to HPSE Faculty and Students with Milestones

Dr. Thomas P. Rock was promoted in November to an Associate Dean at Teachers College from Executive Director of Enrollment Services. He will continue to oversee the Offices of Admission, Financial Aid, Marketing & Technology at TC, but in his new role, he now also oversees the Office of the Registrar. This includes Doctoral Studies and Room Assignments. He reports directly to TC's Provost, Thomas James.

Rebecca Natow received the 2013-2014 Politics of Education Association's Outstanding Dissertation award, and was also a 2013 finalist for the AERA Division J Outstanding Dissertation Award.

Congratulations to HPSE Faculty and Students with Grants

Neumann, A. Principal Investigator and Director. Grant to establish and develop *MetroCiti: A Multi-Campus Institute for Improving Teaching for Students' Liberal Learning in Urban Colleges and Universities*. The Teagle Foundation, 2014-2016. <u>http://www.teaglefoundation.org/Grantmaking/Grantees/default/?gg=1118&rfp=-1&o=1</u>

Jessie Ostrow, HPSE doctoral student, was awarded the NAGAP Graduate Student Research Grant for her planned investigation on student veteran decisions to pursue graduate education.

Congratulations to HPSE Faculty with Presentations and Invited Talks

Campbell, C.M. (2013, December). A discussion of the Obama administration's proposed rating system for higher education. American Council on Education, Washington, D.C.

Campbell, C.M., Ostrow, J., & Chamberlin, C. (2014, May). *Assessing college educational quality: An inside look at academic rigor, teaching quality and learning objectives.* Presented at the Association for Institutional Research Annual Forum, Orlando, FL.

Morse, R., **Campbell C. M.**, Keller, C. M., & Cubarrubia, A. P. (January, 2014). *Measuring quality in higher education: Rankings, rating systems, and alternatives*. University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

Neumann, A. (2013, December). Closing comments for conference on *Testing then and now: Building on a legacy in educational measurement, assessment and evaluation*. Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.

Neumann, A. (2014, February). Keynote lecture: *What is the scholarship of teaching?* Presented at day-long symposium, *What is Peer Review?* for the faculty the New School and Parsons School of Constructed Environments.

HPSE in the News

Several articles have appeared in the higher education press, calling attention to work being done by **Dr. Corbin Campbell** and the College Educational Quality Project:

Berrett, D. (2014, February 7). A New Kind of Study Seeks to Quantify Educational Quality.

Chronicle of Higher Education. Retrieved from: <u>http://chronicle.com/article/A-New-Kind-of-Study-Seeks-to/144621/</u>

Golden, S. (2013, November 18). How Best to Assess. *Inside Higher Ed*. Retrieved from <u>http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/11/18/debating-role-student-learning-federal-ratings-plan</u>

Grassgreen, A. (2014, February 7). Academic rigor lacking but not dead, study says. *Inside Higher Education*. Retrieved from: <u>http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/02/07/academic-rigor-lacking-not-dead</u> <u>-study-says?width=775&height=500&iframe=true</u>

Dr. Thomas P. Rock was featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in an article on helicopter parents in the graduate admissions world: <u>http://chronicle.com/article/Parents-Now-Get-Themselves/144193/</u>

Page 6

Blanca Vega, HPSE doctoral student, was quoted in the *New York Times*. The article refers to her dissertation and Teachers College: <u>http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/25/us/colorblind-notion-aside-colleges-grapple-with-racial-tension.html</u>

Page 7

Congratulations to HPSE Faculty and Students Presenting at The American Educational Research Association's 2014 Annual Meeting

Bolitzer, L.A. & Christensen, M. (2014, April). *Entering practice: An inquiry into novice practitioners' learning*. Paper to be presented at a roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Campbell, C.M., Cruz Paul, T., Dortch, D., & Lee, J.H. (2014, April). *Luke-warm: Testing the water of in-class academic rigor across two research institutions.* Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Campbell, C.M., Jimenez, M., & **Ostrow, J.** (2014, April). *College teaching quality: A bird's eye View of two research institutions*. Paper to be presented at the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Conway, K. (2014, April). *Faculty and student understandings of teaching and learning* (Discussant). AERA Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Conway, K. (2014, April). Improving the doctoral experience (Chair). AERA Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Conway, K. (2014, April). Mentoring and context (Discussant). AERA Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

Conway, K. (2014, April). Working when "your needs have gone out the window": Parenting in the pretenure career in "early-career faculty experiences." Paper to be presented at the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Dougherty, K.J., Jones, S.M., Lahr, H., Natow, R.S., Pheatt, L., & Reddy V. (2014, April). *Performance funding and organizational learning in three states: Forms, hindrances, and state support.* Presentation will be part of the Symposium entitled: "Performance Funding and Organizational Learning in Higher Education" at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Lahr, H., Pheatt, L., Dougherty, K.J., Jones, S.M., Natow, R.N., & Reddy, V. (2014, April). *Obstacles and unintended impacts: A study of performance funding at community colleges in three states*. Roundtable to be presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Natow, R.S. (2014, April). *Political strategies for regulatory policymaking: Exercising power in the federal rulemaking process for higher education*. Paper to be presented at a roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Reddy, V., Lahr, H., Dougherty, K.J., Jones, S.M., Natow, R.S., & Pheatt, L. (2014, April). *Performance funding: What policy instruments and theories of action underlie this popular higher education policy?* Paper to be presented at a roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.









2014 Anna Neumann Supporting Student Research Award

page 8

By: Karen Dilsizian



Jessie Ostrow, a HPSE doctoral student, recently received the Anna Neumann Supporting Student Research Award which is granted to a doctoral student who is engaged in research regarding issues relating to faculty and students' teaching, learning and development. This year's recipient is rapidly building a promising career in higher education and currently serves as the Assistant Director in the Office of Institutional Studies at TC as well as contributing to the research agendas of our distinguished HPSE faculty.

Ms. Ostrow supports diverse research agendas within higher education including teaching and learning and college educational quality. Ms. Ostrow is currently working with Dr. Neumann on her Defining Good Teaching research project to assist with the defining and

charting of student learning in two general education classrooms. She also works with Dr. Campbell on her College Educational Quality (CEQ) Research Team. Ms. Ostrow was instrumental in the execution of the first pilot study by assisting with the creation of the classroom observation rubric and conducting site visits at two institutions in order to assess educational quality through classroom observation. In Fall 2014, Ms. Ostrow will serve as a site leader for the second pilot study. The TC community looks forward to Jessie Ostrow's continued successes and wishes her the best of luck!

Spring 2014 HPSE Events

Resume Workshop with TCCS January 24, 10am-12pm, Zankel 212C

HPSE/HPSEA Social January 30, 8pm-11pm, Village Pourhouse

Resume Review Sessions with TCCS February 28, 12pm-1pm, Zankel 406

Graduation Brunch May 20

Spring 2014 HPSEA Events

Mock Interviews

HPSE alumni have graciously offered their time to "mock interview" current students looking to practice for future job interviews! Mock interviews will be held March 31, April A special thank you to Dr. Monica Christensen and Ms. Lucy 1, and April 2.

Karaoke Showdown with NYU

April 4, 7pm, Karaoke Duet 53 https://www.facebook.com/events/617563951625713/

Alumni Higher Education Speed Networking April 7, 6pm-7pm, Thorndike 157 https://www.facebook.com/events/218558795010441/ HPSE students enjoying the HPSE Social on January 30!



This edition of the HPSE newsletter was brought to you by the HPSE Newsletter Committee:

Chief Editor: Jessie Ostrow Committee: Diana Chadi, Karen Dilsizian, Conrad Walker, and Jolie Woodson

Tam for their invaluable insight.

Higher and Postsecondary Education

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