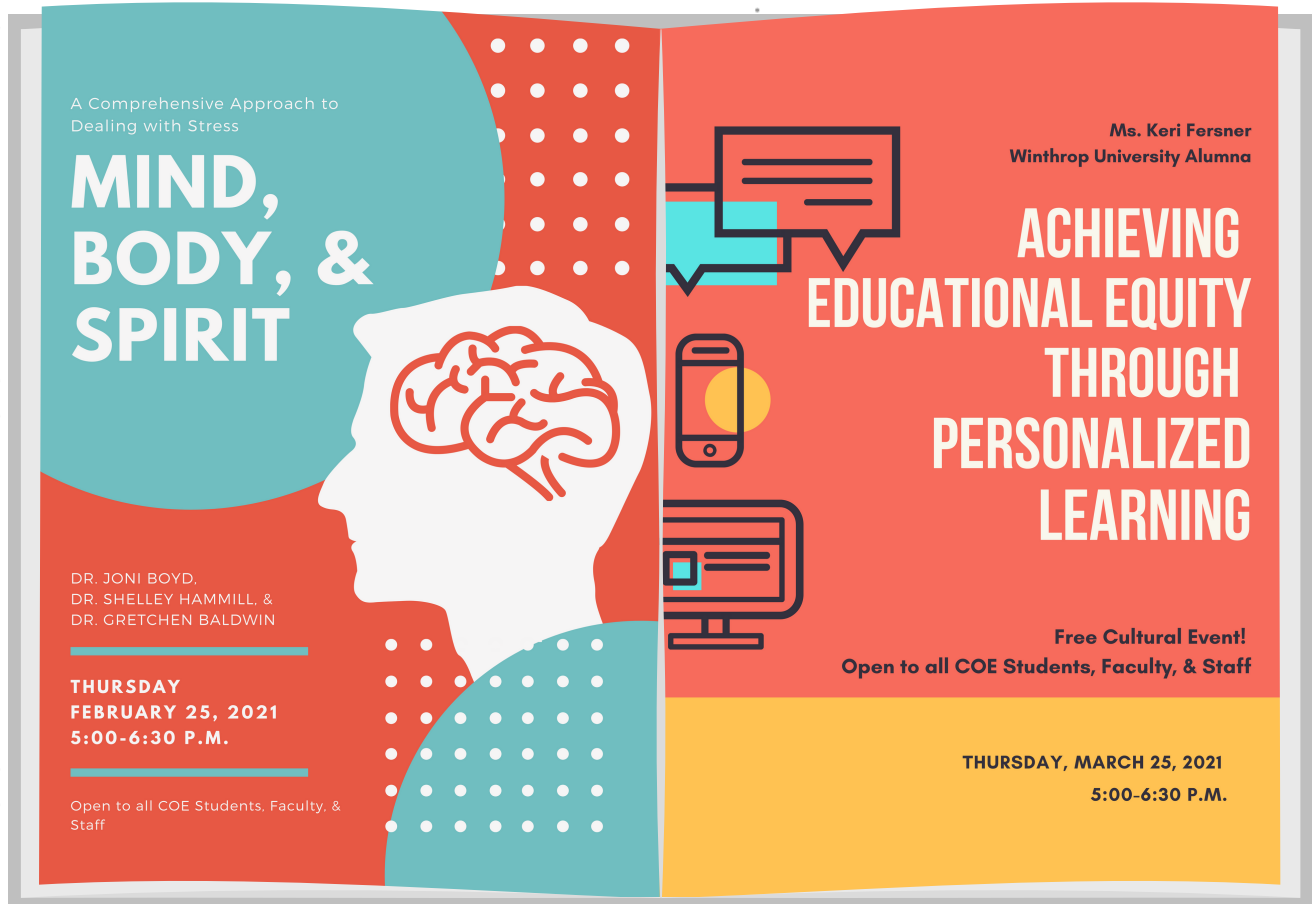


Leading Edge

Educate. Collaborate. Innovate.



A Comprehensive Approach to Dealing with Stress

MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT

DR. JONI BOYD,
DR. SHELLEY HAMMILL, &
DR. GRETCHEN BALDWIN

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 2021
5:00-6:30 P.M.**

Open to all COE Students, Faculty, & Staff

**Ms. Keri Fersner
Winthrop University Alumna**

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY THROUGH PERSONALIZED LEARNING

**Free Cultural Event!
Open to all COE Students, Faculty, & Staff**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021
5:00-6:30 P.M.**

Town Halls: Past and Upcoming

Last fall, the College of Education offered three exceptional town hall events for our faculty, staff, and students: *Racial Tension and Conflict: Student and Faculty Voices Speak* (facilitated by Dr. Sherell Fuller); *The Moral Responsibility of Educators* (Dr. Bettie Parsons); and *Cultivating Emotional Resilience: Navigating the Inevitable Challenges Life Brings* (Dr. Lisa Johnson). In order to continue the conversations that were started in the fall, the COE will be offering two more town hall events this spring. The first town hall was recently held on February 25 and aimed to help us all deal with the unique challenges and stressors that continue to be part of our lives right now. This was a great follow-up to the session on emotional resilience last fall. We would like to thank Drs. Shelley Hamill and Joni Boyd for lending their expertise to this very timely Town Hall session. The second Town Hall this semester will be held on March 25 and is offered by a Winthrop COE alumna, Ms. Keri Fersner, a personalized learning coach at the South Carolina Department of Education. This session will help us see how we can make our classrooms (higher education or P-12) more equitable through personalized learning.

COE town hall sessions are open to the Winthrop community and the Winthrop University-School Partnership Network. These events will provide cultural event credit for Winthrop students, with certain topics also counting as Supplemental Education Experience (SEE) credit for education majors. Stay tuned for more COE town hall topics this fall!

Center of Excellence Grant Acceptance

Winthrop University, along with The Citadel and Converse College, will be awarded one-year state grants from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education to improve teacher education. The university will receive nearly \$100,000 to create a Center of Excellence to focus on internship residencies among Winthrop partnerships in order to address the shortage of teachers in South Carolina. Aptly named Addressing Shortages through Partnership Internship Residences in Education (ASPIRE), the center's goal will be to design, study, and distribute best practices for internship certification implementation with teacher candidates in the Rock Hill, Clover, and York school districts. These residencies typically provide financial support to teacher candidates during their internship in return for teaching in the district after certification.



Beth Costner, associate dean for the Richard W. Riley College of Education, and Bettie Parsons Barger, director of the Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnerships, will serve as co-directors of the ASPIRE Center. The center will provide the following:

- A sustainable, research-based Internship Certificate model that addresses immediate and long-term teacher shortage needs;
- Master teacher training to support mentorship and advancement in the profession for aspects such as undergraduate certification;
- Dissemination of the Internship Certificate implementation model across partnership districts and state teacher preparation programs; and
- Collaboration with other centers, professional organizations, and partner preparation programs to explore model efficacy.

In addition, the ASPIRE Center plans to develop a pilot process for an undergraduate Internship Certificate to address the recruitment and retention of teachers at all levels with the following schools: Larne and Oakdale Elementary Schools; York Intermediate School; Clover, Sullivan, and York Middle Schools; and South Pointe and York Comprehensive High Schools. Additional schools in other nearby school districts will hopefully be added in the future.

The Williams Family Multicultural Children's Literacy Collaborative



We are excited to announce the establishment of The Williams Family Multicultural Children's Literacy Collaborative, funded by Gary and Peggy Williams. The Collaborative will offer a unique opportunity to promote literacy to PK-12 students from our diverse community. Partnering with Rock Hill Schools and other community agencies, the Richard W. Riley College of Education will collaborate with units across the Winthrop campus, including Dacus Library, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the College of Education's Instructional Technology Center, and Macfeat Early Childhood Laboratory School. Working with design students from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, we are currently creating a space that will encourage, promote, and spark a love for literacy.

The Collaborative plans to host a variety of literacy engagements for children and families throughout the year, including bookmaking, author studies, digital literacy projects, and storytelling dramatizations. A library will provide multicultural children's literature for students to read, analyze, and use as inspiration. The Collaborative will function as a demonstration site for literacy instructional strategies such as read alouds, partner reading, shared reading, guided writing, and mini-writing lessons. Our hope is that The Williams Family Multicultural Literacy Collaborative serves as a space for inspiration, imagination, and innovation, as children, families, Winthrop students, and community members engage in multicultural literacy experiences that honor their ethnic, cultural, and social diversity. We look forward to sharing the joy of their experiences and creations with you!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Crystal Glover



Congratulations to Dr. Crystal Glover on her recent book publication! Co-edited with Kindel Turner Nash and Bilal Polson for the NCTE-Routledge Research Series, *Toward Culturally Sustaining Teaching: Early Childhood Educators Honor Children with Practices for Equity and Change* was published in July 2020 and is now available on [Amazon](#).

This book relays the stories of four teacher-teacher dyads who worked together across university-school contexts to study, generate, and evaluate culturally relevant and sustaining literacy practices in early childhood classrooms across the country. This text demonstrates equitable practices and strategies that move toward culturally sustaining teaching such as translanguaging, explorations or children's literature, alternative modes of literacy assessment, photography and arts integration, student-driven poetry units, and more. Highlighting the voices and roles of children, families, community members, and teachers of color, this book suggests new ways for all teachers to build and sustain relationships that are relevant and work toward being sustaining while anticipating and offering solutions for challenges that arise in these contexts.

Dr. Kavin Ming, department chair of Curriculum and Pedagogy, says of Dr. Glover's research: "She uses a thematic approach in her research, and two of the major themes that have emerged throughout the years are: promoting culturally responsive teaching practices in the school environment and examining culture and its impact on educational success. In addition to these areas of study, Dr. Glover studies the impact of mentoring on Winthrop students of color who are at-risk of not being successful in the teacher education program. The goal of her work is to impact in-service teacher perceptions, attitudes, and practices as they work with diverse student populations. She also aims to initiate preventative services for at-risk teacher candidates to increase the likelihood of their program completion."