



# Michael D. Eisner College of Education Hosts First Interdisciplinary Collaborative Symposium

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Conference organizers Wendy Murawski and Greg Knotts entertained guests during opening remarks with a CSUN-inspired rendition of Abbott and Costello's famous "Who's on First" routine. Photo by Lee Choo.

What do you get when you mix references to the CTL with the EPC and add a little ELPS for good measure? A confusing mix of alphabet soup if you aren't careful, but for elementary education faculty member Greg Knotts and special education professor Wendy Murawski, it set the stage for a crowd-pleasing re-enactment of the vaudeville "Who's on First" routine, customized to reflect the complex and often confusing nature of departmental inner-workings.

The well-received performance opened the California State University, Northridge's Michael D. Eisner College of Education's first interdisciplinary collaborative symposium, an event designed to encourage a collaborative and collegial culture within the college by showcasing the results of faculty research conducted in partnership with colleagues from other departments within the college.

"The purpose of this new conference is to share the powerful work conducted through the Eisner College of Education with one another," said Knotts, symposium coordinator. "This helps the college become more informed about our own internal scholarship, research and study."

The half-day event included a welcome by Dean Michael Spagna and 12 faculty presentations by its six academic departments, the Center for Teaching and Learning and numerous related committees and neighboring educational institutions. The collaborative project presentations included "Bridging Cultures," examining the importance of infusing the cultural values framework of individualism and collectivism into CSUN elementary models and "Write for Your Life," a collaboration between elementary education, secondary education and English, focusing on ways to strengthen students' traditional and electronic writing skills through the use of social media.

"The more we can collaborate across the disciplines, take an interdisciplinary approach, the more we can improve education," said Spagna to attendees during his welcome.

Research projects presented during the symposium were funded by two federal grants: Transdisciplinary Teacher Development and the Clinical Teaching Model and in collaboration with the Teaching Learning Counseling Consortium and the Center for Teaching and Learning. Murawski, who serves as chair of the Center for Teaching and Learning as well as project grant director, said the symposium allowed the college to share “amazing things going on” in the various departments.

The Michael D. Eisner College of Education is nationally recognized for its innovative approach in providing exemplary programs to prepare highly qualified teachers, school administrators, counselors and deaf studies professionals. The college traditionally ranks as one of the largest colleges of education in California, yet offers small classes and personal attention. It is known for its strong sense of community within the college, as well as for its expert faculty and cutting-edge programming.

—Stephanie Colman and Julian Reyes