

3. Presentations by Appalachian State University StudentsEdelma Huntley, Graduate Dean

Situation: The EPPP Committee, in order to stay in touch with campus activity and have a sense of what incredible talent and ability our students display, have begun a practice of opening their meetings by highlighting students from various campuses to speak on their undergraduate research experiences.

Background: NCA&T State University and UNC School of the Arts have recently presented at the EPPP Committee. The topics of these presentations were widely varied and immensely informative.

Assessment: These student presentations have strengthened the EPPP Committee's understanding and connection to the meaning of their work.

Action: This item is for information only.

3-MINUTE RESEARCH COMPETITION at Appalachian State University

WINNER (will represent Appalachian at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools 3MT competition in February)

"Addressing Adolescent Suicide Rates in a School Mental Health Setting"

Alex Kirk, Clinical Psychology

Mentor: Dr. Kurt Michael

In light of the high rates of adolescent depression and suicidality, coupled with the numerous obstacles restricting access to effective treatments for these youth, school mental health programs have gained considerable credibility in recent years, especially in rural settings. Not only are the rates of depression and suicidality in remote regions alarming, but the obstacles to treatment seeking are prevalent as well. These stark realities underscore the importance of developing effective and sustainable school mental health models in areas where social stigmas are pervasive, professional therapists are sparse, financial obstacles are common, and transportation options are limited.

The goal of the present study is to evaluate the Assessment, Support, and Counseling Center; an interdisciplinary, school-based mental health program serving adolescents in four rural western North Carolina schools. Specifically, the goal is to examine the effectiveness of modularized cognitive-behavioral therapy in treating adolescent depression and suicidal ideation. The effectiveness of this model will be measured by pre- and post-assessments of students' scores on psychological measures, including whether the amount and type of change measured is practical and meaningful.

Further, the current study will assess the effectiveness of the PEACE Protocol, or the Prevention of Escalating Adolescent Crisis Events Protocol; a systematic plan in the school setting to identify and intervene with students who express suicidal or homicidal ideation. It is predicted that the ASC Center model will result in a clinically significant reductions in depression for the majority of adolescents who undergo treatment, successfully identifying and intervening in a significant number of situations where the students have expressed suicidal or homicidal ideation.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTE

"Assessment of Modular Construction Utilization: Implications for UNC Campus Residence Halls"

Scott Hopkins, Technology

Mentor: Dr. Marie Hoepfl

Modular construction can deliver buildings faster, with fewer defects, and more economically than on-site construction. It works well for buildings that feature repetitive elements, such as student dormitories, yet modular construction is not used widely at UNC campuses. Scott Hopkin's study examines why modular

construction has not caught on, and documents the potential savings that could result from the use of modular construction for residence halls.

North Carolina has many modular manufacturing facilities; in fact, it is one of the top-producing states in the nation. The estimated cost to replace the residence halls on UNC campuses is over \$3 billion. Hopkins's research shows that by using modular construction, the UNC system might be able to meet future housing needs without sacrificing quality, while contributing to NC manufacturing and the state's economy.

RUNNER UP

"Using Math to Teach Financial Literacy to Adolescents"

Amber Mellon, Mathematics

Mentor: Dr. Mark Ginn

Financial Literacy is a topic that has been neglected in the education of young adults. It is common knowledge that many people are struggling with financial decisions and that far too many people have a dislike for math, often because they had a bad experience with the subject at an early age.

The goal of Amber Mellon's research project was to create and test the impact of a series of worksheets on different financial literacy topics in order to help community college students to understand these topics and to see how mathematics is used in the real world. Implementation of the worksheets will provide longitudinal data on the most effective strategies for developing financial literacy in students. By using mathematics to teach financial literacy as part of the community college curriculum, teachers can help to educate a population that makes smart financial decisions and appreciates the importance of mathematics in daily life.