

**Research and Service Initiatives at
University High School
1994-95**

U-High Mission and Beliefs:

The mission of University High School is to be Pioneers in research, service, and excellence in education.

We believe that University High School should:

- share insights into effective teaching and learning with the educational community.
- involve students preparing for a career in education in a variety of classroom and co-curricular experiences which reflect current practices and explore innovative approaches.
- represent a diversity of learners in order to enhance teacher preparation and research.
- encourage individual development and freedom of expression in a secure environment.
- provide a climate of respect and trust.
- engage in a collaborative process to secure resources necessary to accomplish its mission.
- create staffing plans which recognize individual strengths and contributions to the mission of the school.
- provide all students with the support and resources they need to maximize their potential.
- be a laboratory in which research focuses on questions of teaching and learning.
- collaborate with university faculty to develop and implement appropriate research agendas.

A list of research initiatives pursued during the first semester of the 1994-95 school year at University High School follows:

Internally conducted:

Project FIRST- FIRST is an experimental project focusing on an interdisciplinary teaching/learning program for freshmen students. Research examines the following areas.

Study Skills	FIRST team
Writing Skills	FIRST team
Wellness	FIRST team
Student Achievement & Attendance	Dr. Patricia Klass
Change Process in Schools	Dr. Jeff Hecht

The FIRST faculty are also studying the changes in student attitudes as they relate to reading, writing and other areas of language arts.

Foreign Language- New methodology in Spanish instruction Ms. Sams-Davis

The focus of this study is to examine student study habits, practices and reactions to instructional methodology for Spanish II.

Special Needs-Inclusion of Special Needs Students in General Ed. classes.
Dr. Ashby/Ms. Dykes

The purpose of this study is to develop a decision making tool for deciding which regular education classes are appropriate for special needs students and the range of services they should be provided, so that they can be full participants in these classes.

Collaborative Planning Process- Dr. Ashby/FAC

This project examines the efficacy of a collaborative planning process (faculty, staff, parents, administrators, college and university representatives) as it relates to setting goals and directions for a school.

College and Career Choices for Women and Minorities-

Dr. Benson

A follow-up study of students who have participated in the Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics workshops (1991- present) is being conducted. The study examines college and career choices of these females, including minority students. The program emphasizes choices in mathematics and science.

Evaluating Instructional Technology in Mathematics-

Dr. Benson

This project involves the development and use of an observation instrument for teachers who incorporate technology within classroom instruction in mathematics in order to assess perceived effectiveness and satisfaction from students.

Social Studies-In-school field trips

Jim Kelly/Peg Scott

This study examines descriptive aspects of planning, scheduling, and organizing in-school field trips within the school setting. The focus is on the process of planning and implementation within the whole school schedule and includes a variety of other disciplines.

Guidance-

Alumni Surveys and student follow-up

Sandy Brown

The purpose of this study is to establish a systematic and permanent data base of graduates within the last five years, and to evaluate their educational experience.

Externally conducted:

HIV/Sexually Transmitted Diseases-

ISU Health & Wellness

The focus of this project is to design and implement a school program for HIV/STD prevention.

Characteristics That Influence Adolescent and Parental Expectations About Alcohol-
ISU Psychology dept.

This study examines family environment, alcohol expectancies, coping preferences, and negative mood regulation expectancies as they relate to the use of drinking as a coping mechanism and alcohol use among adolescents.

Support: (Grant Proposals)

NSF- Network for Equity: Teachers, Professional Women and Girls
(funds applied for- 1994) Dr. Carol Benson

NSF- Partners in Science Education: A Staff Development Program
(funds applied for-1994) CMAST/ISU/U-High

This three-year project will incorporate the following necessary steps to transform teacher education at ISU: integration of cooperating science teachers and administrators into methods courses; work with cooperating teachers and administrators in the establishment of goals, practices, and evaluation tools for clinical experiences; synchronization of clinical experiences and the cooperating teachers' classroom activities with methods course content; and creation of a support mechanism for student teachers.

ISBE- Teaching for Scientific Literacy Carl Wenning/Lois Wisniewski
(funded- 1994)

This project will provide an opportunity for teachers to share and learn more about the methodologies that will promote attainment of the goals of scientific literacy and the State Goals for Learning. This project also will create a framework for promoting productive collaboration between universities, teachers, and administrators who must work together if significant progress is to be made. Additionally, this project will provide for the utilization of new technological methods for communication between the units involved.

ISBE-

Operation Physics
(funded- 1994)

Tom Holbrook/ Mike Virlee

The objectives for this series of workshops will be to enhance upper elementary and middle school science teachers' conceptual understanding of physics and to provide these same teachers with ideas for effectively preparing their students to meet the State Goals for Learning and for the IGAP exam.

Service:

Lab School Electronic Journal-

Dr. Patricia Klass

The purpose of this on-line journal is to provide and promote exemplary teaching practices within the classroom. In excess of 20 articles have been submitted for the first edition.

Clinical Experiences-

University High School is presently involved in providing ISU and the College of Education with a site for numerous observations and clinical experiences for classes which include: C&I 215 and 216, Child growth and development, Educational Psychology, etc. Joint faculty appointments have been established for courses which include: Biology Methods, Physics Methods, Chemistry Methods and C&I 216. The ISU chemistry department is also working with U-High to provide a laboratory for U-High's Advanced Placement Chemistry.

Additional information on these initiatives is available by contacting:

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