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# 01. Education

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## **Abstracts from the 2015 Oklahoma Research Day**

**Held at Northeastern State University**

### **02. Education and Professional Studies**

#### **01. Education**

##### **02.01.01 Americans with Disabilities Act and the Hospitality Management Programs**

**Elizabeth,Reeve** *Other Institution*

**Renee,Cambiano** *Northeastern State University*

When looking at the desires of the many hospitality management programs, many state that they will prepare the students to become qualified hospitality professionals for the various opportunities available in the fastest growing segments of the nation's economy (Milwaukee Area Technical College, 2014). Part of becoming prepared is understanding the many issues related to the field, such as the many allegations due to not being in compliance with the Americans with disabilities act (US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, 2014). There are methods to train adults in different environments, such as the Malcolm Knowles' theory of andragogy, just-in-time learning theory, and adult education theory by Mezirow and Brookfield (Wang & Kania-Gosche, 2011). However, it is unknown rather higher education students in the hospitality programs are being trained to use these resources, in regards to the ADA, or being assessed for the use of these programs (Šerić, Saura, & Descals, 2011). Adult education theories state that the adult needs to feel empowered and in-control of their learning (Coryell, 2013; Franz, 2007). The qualitative, transformative study will explore how the training and assessment allows the students to feel empowered when applying the ADA in the hospitality industry.

## **02.01.02 Physiological Reactivity is Negatively Correlated with Implicit Racist Attitudes**

**Caleb,Lack** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Deon,Hall** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Justin,Durham** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Robert,Mather** *University of Central Oklahoma*

The project investigated the degree to which an individual's implicit racist attitudes influence the level of anxiety achieved while watching video clips of socially inappropriate humor. There is a growing need for research as it relates to multiculturalism. In this study, participants had their heartrate and galvanic skin response recorded while being shown videos, two of different types of humor (socially inappropriate and slapstick) and one control clip of an innocuous political story. The participants were also instructed to complete a racial Implicit Association Test (IAT). The race of experimenter was manipulated as half the participants were instructed by a black experimenter and the other half were instructed by a white experimenter. It was hypothesized that participants who scored significantly on the IAT would experience the least amount of anxiety in the presence of a black experimenter while viewing the socially inappropriate clip. There was a negative relationship between implicit racism and anxiety. Individuals who scored high in implicit racist attitudes were generally less anxious while watching the humorous clips.

## **02.01.03 Student Perceptions on Teacher Caring**

**Kathryn,Brown** *Northeastern State University*

Caring behaviors are crucial for student achievement (Garza, 2010). This research seeks to examine how students perceive caring based on the following behaviors displayed by an instructor: good classroom management skills, academic support, interpersonal relationships, and a sense of trust and respect. This study investigated the differences in perceptions of 30 freshman honor students at a Midwestern United States regional university. This quantitative study utilized a Likert-type 22 item survey to examine and explore the perceptions of teacher caring held by said students. Significant differences were found in all areas: Classroom Management, Academic Support, Interpersonal Relationships, and Respect and Trust.

#### **02.01.04 Food Safety Knowledge among Undergraduate College Students: A Questionnaire-based Survey**

**Kanika, Bhargava** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Shaina, George** *University of Central Oklahoma*

The purpose of this study is to assess food safety knowledge of various undergraduate students on the University of Central Oklahoma campus. Each student was given a 10-question survey that included an assortment of questions about food safety. After the survey was taken, students were given an answer sheet that gave a detailed explanation of each question. There were also educational handouts for each student who took the survey. Food safety education is an important topic that needs to be educated to all sexes, ages, and majors. The findings concluded that females, Caucasians, mid twenties, and nutrition majors are more educated about this topic. A need for relevant and motivating food safety education exists in other groups.

#### **02.01.05 Implementing 21st Century Skills Using Technology in the K-12 Classroom**

**Anna Talkington, Talkington** *East Central University*

This research is directed toward exploring how effectively 21st Century Skills or ISTE "Students Skills", as defined by the ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education), are being incorporated into classroom curriculum, lesson-planning, and teaching real world application of the skills. Our study examines three main research questions: Which 21st Century Skills are being implemented? What is the technology self-efficacy level of practicing teachers? What specific technological tools are being used? Part of this project was developing a survey using Google Docs. The link to the survey was sent out via e-mail to cooperating educators who are currently working or have worked in conjunction with the East Central University Department of Education Office of Field Experiences and Student Teaching. The results of our survey suggested that the ISTE global and financial literacy student skills are possibly the skills being implemented least. Technologies that were commonly used were Smart Boards, Computers/ Laptops, iPads/tablets. Additionally, teachers struggled most with solving hardware/software issues, using productivity tools, and using media to collaborate.

#### **02.01.06 Impact Behaviors of First-time and Developmental Students**

**Erik, Wilkinson** *Northeastern State University*

**Kristal, Soderstrom** *Northeastern State University*

As many in Higher Education already know, first to second year retention rates are a major issue on many campuses across the nation. This is often because first year students have to navigate a myriad of issues that can impact their retention from year one to two. However, first generation students and those needing remediation face an even higher risk of not being retained after the first year. Using data obtained from the MAP-Works Early Alert system through surveys taken by first year students during their University Strategies course, this study looked at five out-of-classroom factors that could impact the retention of these students; social media usage, study hours, campus involvement, on/off campus living, and choosing a major. The presenters will discuss some of the interventions taken by staff at the Student Academic Success Center at Northeastern State University to address these issues with students, and the success the program has had in helping retain these students.

## **02.01.07 Effects of Personal Experiences, Victim/Perpetrator Appearance and Myth Acceptance on Perceptions of Sexual Assault**

**Brittany,Riggin** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Lorry,Youll** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Melissa,Baker** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Thomas,Hancock** *University of Central Oklahoma*

Sexual violence perpetrated against women continues to plague women in the U.S. and around the world. The purpose of this research is to combine previous studies regarding victim blaming, rape myth acceptance and victim/perpetrator empathy in a more comprehensive way by examining the effects of rape myth acceptance as well as perpetrator and victim appearance on likability, believability, guilt, and empathy ratings for both the male perpetrator of sexual assault and the female victim. It is hypothesized that victim and perpetrator appearance, degree of rape myth acceptance, empathy felt toward perpetrators and victims of sexual assault, unacknowledged rape perpetrator/victim status and endorsement of ambivalent sexism will have a significant relationship with regard to an individual's tendency toward victim blaming. Results from this comprehensive study will make it possible to draw clearer conclusions of mediators in perceptions of rape cases.

## **02.01.08 Tracking Unconscious Eye Movements Toward the Blind Spot**

**Yasmin,Shirali** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Objectives** My study is focused on finding out where a person's gaze is directed when using monocular vision. It is also my objective to find out if these eye movements are unconscious. If they are, I will examine the costs and benefits using an evolutionary approach. **Hypotheses** My hypothesis is that when using monocular vision, a person's initial gaze will go to the vicinity of his blind spot when looking at a still picture. I also hypothesize that when using monocular vision, a person will most frequently look in the vicinity of his blind spot when looking at moving stimuli. **Methodology** I will test 30 volunteers who will be recruited using SONA. The 30 participants will serve in the test condition and the control condition. I will use the Blind Spot Experiment from the USD Internet Psychology Psychology Laboratory to locate their blind spot. I will then use the SMI Eye-tracking system to show participants the stimuli and record their visual movements. **Summary** I expect that participants will make unconscious movements toward their blind spots. Having a deeper understanding of how the blind spot affects monocular vision will have many applications, especially in the medical field.

## **02.01.09 The Effects of Pre-Kindergarten Literacy Skills on First Grade Reading Comprehension**

**Christy, Gammon** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Julie, Collins** *University of Central Oklahoma*

The goal of this study was to examine whether an intervention of additional instructional time attending a public pre-kindergarten program provides a benefit of improved reading proficiency in first grade. With the number of children struggling to read on grade level in third grade, a focus has developed for early intervention. This study examined whether there is a connection between attending pre-kindergarten and improved reading skills in first grade. Children who have poor letter knowledge, phonological awareness and language skills at the beginning of kindergarten have a difficult time learning to read, and as such it was predicted that those children will also have a difficult time comprehending grade level passages in first grade. Children who attend pre-kindergarten often know more letters, more letter-sound associations and have a stronger proficiency in understanding and using the English language; and as such it was further predicted that children who have strong letter knowledge, phonological awareness and language skills will be capable of comprehending grade level passages in first grade. Data collected for this study included reading assessment data from pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade for students currently in first grade. Data was analyzed for students in groups by those who attended pre-kindergarten and those who did not. Data collection and analysis are ongoing. The researchers will share the current status of the data analysis.

## **02.01.10 Preparing Teachers for Urban Schools: Preliminary Findings from an Urban Teacher Preparation Academy**

**Amanda, Coker** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Candace, Cunningham** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Joshua, Putnam** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Lauren, Belflower** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Mike, Nelson** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Pamela, Bollig** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Yetundi, Quadri** *University of Central Oklahoma*

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of an Urban Teacher Preparation Academy (UTPA) in retaining and developing effective teachers. The program studied was developed through a collaborative partnership between the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) and Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS), an urban school district, in response to a shortage of qualified teachers in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. Data sources included classroom observations conducted by the research team and observations conducted by UCO supervisors. Data were coded with the analysis focused on identifying patterns in three domains; instructional practice, classroom management, and classroom environment. Particularly noteworthy were the positive teacher-student interactions and classroom climates, and the use of pedagogical practices that support active learning. Relatively few instances were observed of individualized instruction and relating instruction to the experiences of urban students. Seventy-four percent of the academy graduates have accepted employment with the (OKCPS) and at this time all remain in the district. The program shows promise in producing effective teachers that choose to remain in urban schools.

## **02.01.11 Re-Thinking the Purpose and Practice of Research at Masters Level Institutions: A Case Study**

**Ed,Cunliff** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Elle,Skelton** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Melissa,Powers** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Mike,Nelson** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Olivia,Curtis** *University of Central Oklahoma*

Introduction: Our purpose is to investigate what capstone experiences for graduate students are most beneficial in accomplishing students' career goals; concentrating on readiness to enter the workforce or furthering students' education into a PhD program. Methods: Audio recorded interviews will be conducted with Program Coordinators from Master's programs in the spring semester of 2015. Information obtained from the Program Coordinators will assist in answering some of the following questions: What are the structure and goals established in your current capstone experience? What are the current student learning objectives for graduate students? What are the opportunities that graduate students encounter after graduation, workforce or PhD, other? What is the perceived "readiness" of each graduate student for their next opportunity? Results: Since data gathering will start spring semester of 2015, results has not yet been acquired to report. Conclusion: While we expect that most capstone experiences are adequately preparing students for their future endeavors, we hypothesize that alternative capstone experiences may further enhance graduate student preparation. Further research will include investigating new and alternative capstone experiences, implementation of those new and/or alternating elements, and broadening our sample to a wider variety of universities.

## **02.01.12 Passive Speakers in the Absentee Shawnee Community: Understanding their Silence**

**Donna,Longhorn** *University of Central Oklahoma*

Passive Speakers in the Absentee Shawnee Community: Understanding their Silence The Absentee Shawnee language is among the many severely endangered languages still spoken in North American and Canada (Krauss, 1998). As fluent Native American language speakers pass away, the urgency to uncover resources for language preservation increases. Passive speakers are the adult members of indigenous communities who understand their heritage languages fluently but rarely, if ever, speak them (Grinevald and Bert 2011). This research study explored the impact traditional Absentee Shawnee socialization practices had on restricting the operational use of the Shawnee language in adulthood. Absentee Shawnee tribal members with a certified degree blood quantum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  between 55 – 75+ years of age were surveyed. The survey included societal/cultural (i.e., boarding school era), language socialization (i.e., language shift) and emotional variables (i.e., affective filters) that may contribute in developing passive speakers. Preliminary analysis of data from 50 participants will be shared and discussed at this poster session. Results point to the importance of Tribal and scholarly attention that is directed towards understanding the passive speaker phenomena in order to determine what language revitalization potential lies within these tribal members.

### **02.01.13 Relationship Between Envy and Psychopathy**

**Kiersten,Durning** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Robert,Mather** *University of Central Oklahoma*

Several aspects of envy and psychopathy share a negative emotional holding on the individuals and their actions, the direction of the current research is to measure and see the relationship between both of these emotions in the same individual. Often individuals who experience high levels of either of these emotions will turn hostile. The expectation is that individuals will show a positive correlation with both emotions. Thus, those who measure highly in one of these emotions will also measure highly in the other.

### **02.01.14 Electromyography of Microexpressions and Mimicry in Relationship to Psychopathy**

**Kiersten,Durning** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Robert,Mather** *University of Central Oklahoma*

This research is directed toward a better understanding of emotions being shown through Micro-Expressions, comparing an individual's ability to "hide" their emotions comparing low and high psychopathy participants. Measuring the participants' facial movements in reaction to the picture both when inhibiting emotion and not. Micro-expressions may be socially determined with an individual mimicking another's emotional facial expression. This study will test if pictures displaying facial expressions would be causation for more muscle movement, measured with electromyography.

### **02.01.15 Understanding the Difference: A Look at Higher Education From the Voices of American Indian Students**

**Corey,Still** *Northeastern State University*

The spectrum of the American Indian identity is a complex structure that encompasses many aspects of one's life. This is true too for the identity of the American Indian students who attend higher educational institutes across the country. This study identifies and examines the difference in experiences and issues encountered at a higher education institution by American Indian undergraduate college students with a strong cultural/tribal identity and American Indian students with a hereditary identity. The study sheds perspective over the unique identity spectrum that American Indian student presents and provide recommendations to improve American Indian student services.

## **02.01.16 Positive Effects of Studying Foreign Languages on Academic Performance**

**Maria Laura,Lopez Gonzales** *Cameron University*

Currently, the United States' education system places little emphasis on teaching foreign languages compared to the emphasis placed on other areas such as math, science, and art. To be both competitive and competent in our current job market, students graduating from secondary and post-secondary schools must have the necessary tools to be able to face the challenges that ongoing globalization brings. A study at Cameron University was created to determine the relationship between the formal and informal study of foreign languages and general academic performance. As part of the study, a survey was given to students at Cameron University who responded to questions concerning languages learned during their primary, secondary and post-secondary school education, as well as their current letter grades and GPA scores at the college level. The study showed that there is a positive correlation between studying foreign languages to various degrees and academic performance.

## **02.01.17 A Preliminary Investigation of the Effectiveness of Interactive Whiteboard Technology in an Early Intervention Classroom**

**Daiquirie,Crumrine** *University of Oklahoma*

**Susan,Benson** *University of Central Oklahoma*

Numerous scholarly articles and anecdotal reports describe the uses of the interactive whiteboard (IWB) in educational settings. To date, few studies using experimental designs exist, and no studies were found investigating the effectiveness of this technology for children with communication disorders. As a first step in the investigation of IWB effectiveness, the purpose of the proposed research project was to use a single subject design to compare children's on-task behavior during instruction using an IWB with on-task behavior during traditional instruction in which an IWB was not used. It was hypothesized that young children with and without communication disorders would demonstrate increased on-task behavior when curriculum was delivered using an IWB. On-task behavior was defined as a child oriented towards, or looking at, the instructor or the IWB. If the instructor had directed the child to look at an object, picture, or another child, on-task behavior included the child following the instructor's direction. In general, children demonstrated slightly better on-task behavior in response to instruction delivered via an IWB. However, unique cognitive profiles and learning styles were noted and should be taken into consideration when choosing instructional methods.

## **02.01.18 Assessing Overall Satisfaction of American Indian Students with the NSU Experience**

**Jennifer,McCann** *Northeastern State University*

**Tom,Jackson** *Northeastern State University*

Northeastern State University's Indigenous Scholar Development Center (ISDC) is a Title III NASNTI grant designed to identify and facilitate the success of at-risk American Indian students. In order to provide the necessary services the ISDC assesses American Indian students' overall levels of satisfaction and familiarity with NSU and its Indigenous services and programs. Familiarity with support and programs were also assessed. The survey consists of five demographic questions and 19 satisfaction program familiarity questions. The Checkbox software used allowed for only self-identified American Indian students to receive the survey link as well as limiting their completion of the survey to one iteration. In order to increase the response rate, ISDC gained IRB approval to distribute and collect the survey in a paper format from American Indian students. Results indicate positive satisfaction overall and some of the services provided as well as a degree of familiarity with NSU indigenous services and programs which, while acceptable, needs further promotion. Discussion will include the survey results as well as steps to be taken to heighten awareness, familiarity and satisfaction with all of NSU's indigenous programs.

## **02.01.19 Challenges That Saudi Students Face in Higher Education in the United States**

**Rachel,Hurt** *Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

**Safa,Alshareef** *Southwestern Oklahoma State University*

One important service provided by the government of Saudi Arabia to the citizens is education for all age groups. Education is free for all genders regardless of education level. Saudi opened many public and private universities in the country to accommodate all of the students. One of the educational opportunities provided to students are scholarships to study outside of the country. In 2007 only 10 thousand students were studying in the United States. By 2014 the number had risen to 111 thousand. Eighty-eight of those students are studying at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma. Coming to the United States to receive an education is rewarding. However, it can be difficult. What challenges do Saudi students face in the United States?

## **02.01.20 The Educational Advantages of the High-Throughput Computing Installation Process**

**Bradley,Paynter** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Evan,Lemley** *University of Central Oklahoma*

There are many researchers across the country working at primarily teaching universities. These researchers usually have limited access to high-performance computing (HPC) resources. In these cases, high-throughput computing (HTC) solutions such as HTCondor are attractive as they require significantly less infrastructure cost. Unfortunately, time and money for research are also in scarce supply at such institutions. We discuss the advantages of leveraging a resource that is plentiful, undergraduate students, to install and configure an HTC cluster.

## **02.01.21 The Resilience of Women who Were Sexually Abused as Children**

**Martine, Basden** *Northeastern State University*

The purpose of this research is to examine factors that lead to resiliency in women who were once abused sexually as children. Studies show that 1 in 4 women were sexually abused before the age of 18. Researchers have documented that 20% to 44% of adults who were sexually abused during their childhood show no apparent signs of negative outcome (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006). Some women have overcome their sexual abuse from childhood through social support and disclosing the abuse as well as other factors that lead to resiliency.

## **02.01.22 Factors Affecting Student Loan Debt at a Mid-Sized Four-Year University**

**Kari, Hurt** *Northeastern State University*

**Sophia, Sweeney** *Northeastern State University*

The student loan default rate in the United States is at an all-time high. Defaulted student loans can have long-term negative impacts on the borrower and the university. The purpose of the study was to determine the risk factors of the sample for defaulting on their student loans and to determine the relationship between the students' anticipated earnings after graduation and their student loan debt. A researcher-developed survey was used to collect data from undergraduate and graduate students at a mid-sized, regional, four-year university in the mid-western United States. The results revealed that the students at this university have the following characteristics of borrowers who are more likely to default on their student loans: married (48%), with dependents (60%), 21% of respondents are between the ages of 23 and 27, and first generation college students (56%). A two-tailed dependent t-test was revealed non-significant differences between students' estimated earnings after graduation and Oklahoma's average earnings for the same job. A Pearson product-moment correlation revealed a non-significant weak positive correlation between students' estimated earning potential and the student loan debt incurred. The results of this research may help financial aid officers help students make informed choices about their student loan debt.

## **02.01.24 Evaluating the Impact of Healthy Vending Machines at the University of Central Oklahoma**

**Dr. Tawni, Holmes Ph. D., R.D., L.D.** *University of Central Oklahoma*

**Jalal, Ghafil** *University of Central Oklahoma*

Due to the growing obesity epidemic in Oklahoma, college students need to be aware of what they choose as food options in order to help prevent weight gain and all of the negative implications associated with it. The availability of vending machines on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma is very present, but the machines with healthy snack options are limited. Last year, the Healthy Campus Initiative resulted in two healthy machines being placed in two separate buildings on campus. The purpose of this project is to discover the difference in nutrient densities between snacks in the traditional versus healthy vending machines. Snacks in both types of vending machines were examined for fat, calories, sugar, sodium, and fiber. Results showed that all but one of the snacks in the health machine are considered reduced calorie items, but that the overwhelming majority of those in the traditional machine are not reduced calorie items. By analyzing the nutrients in the typical vending machine's snack and drink options and comparing them to the snacks and drinks in the healthy vending machines, it should be evident that the health benefits associated with the standard snacks and drinks will be lesser than the healthier options.

## **02.01.25 The Nontraditional Female Student: Identifying Needs for Academic Support**

**Shannon,Altom-Deckard** *Northeastern State University*

Nontraditional female students continue to make an appearance in growing numbers on college campuses, enticing researchers to take a closer look at how this changes the dynamics of a traditional education. This study of 151 nontraditional female students researches support needs in the areas of financial support, childcare needs, counseling services, and additional student services desired. Additionally, the study demonstrates an interest in peer support networks to aid in the social support of the nontraditional female student. Recommendations are made to conduct further research in identifying the special needs of the nontraditional female student, as well as consideration given to orientation programs and technology training specifically structured to meet the educational needs of a nontraditional female student population.