

North Carolina A&T State University
School of Education
S.M.A.R.T.
Enrichment Program

**Learning To Teach, Learning To Serve
Service Learning Project**

The Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education (SCALE), a program in the School of Education at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill has brought together 12 NC higher education institutions to create a statewide teacher education consortium entitled Learning to Teach, Learning to Serve (LTLS). During the three-year project, LTLS will enhance pre-service teacher education and increase academic achievement for children at risk of school failure by developing exemplary service-learning practices on campuses and in communities around the state. Working with teacher education programs from a variety of campuses, including historically black colleges and faith-based institutions, LTLS will mobilize 1,050 pre-service teachers in service-learning activities that will engage 2,100 K-12 students in service-learning activities in their schools. Each institution is awarded \$20,000 per year of grant funds that they must match to run their programs. In addition, LTLS will also offer service-learning training to current teachers and fund service-learning research for teacher education.

Mission Statement

A free and appropriate public education is a right for all children. The education that children receive dictates their future and the future of this country. It is the responsibility of everyone to come together to ensure that a quality education is received by all children, and that any deficits or shortcomings are addressed and eliminated. To be most effective, it is also imperative to provide future educators with the skills needed to effectively teach fundamental skills and concepts. The responsibilities of teachers are great, and they deserve to be adequately equipped for the task at hand.

For these reasons, the S.M.A.R.T. Tutorial Program has a three-fold focus: 1) to provide elementary school students with the necessary supplements to their education to ensure that they have the skills needed to meet all North Carolina Standard Course of Study grade level competencies in Reading and Language Arts, 2) to provide pre-service teachers enrolled in Schools of Education at colleges and universities in North Carolina the opportunity to have hands-on, practical experience working with children who require remediation in Reading and Language Arts, and 3) to engage both K-12 students and pre-service teachers in community service initiatives that allow them the opportunity to engage in their community and broaden their awareness of, and action in response to, the needs of others.

It is our belief that through the five basic tenets of the program- Service, Mentoring, Academics, Responsibility, and Teamwork that these program goals can be effectively achieved.

Program at a Glance

- Started with pre-service teachers participating in 10 hours literacy training
- Tutorials held in the Memorial Student Union on the campus of NC A&T twice a week for 2 hours (1.5 of instruction and 30 minutes for snack and settling), for 11 weeks
- Pre-service teachers are paired in groups of 2-3 and work with groups of 4-6 Washington students that were grouped by reading level
- Tutorial Site Managers are veteran tutors who assist tutors with challenges, review reflections and manage the tutoring site with the union staff
- Reading and writing materials are selected to align with the NC Standard Course of Study Competencies for Reading and Language Arts for each grade level
- Students are benchmarked at beginning and middle of the program, with EOG serving as the final assessment for the year (3rd and 5th grade only)

- Parent training activity will be held providing them with Home Learning Toolkits; students will also share their portfolios of their work with their family at this time
- Service learning project for K-12 students will center around them reading books on tape for students in Malawi, South Africa to assist in their mastery of English

Additional Research

- As a member of the LTLS Network, the S.M.A.R.T. Enrichment Program has received an additional \$10,000 research grant to extend our tutorial program and conduct research using our model on developing dispositions and teaching efficacy for pre-service students through a service learning
- Students at Rankin Elementary School will participate in the S.M.A.R.T. Enrichment Program during the 2007-08 school year
- Washington students will continue to be tutored on campus twice each week
- Pre-service candidates will come from four courses (two courses each semester) taught at NC A&T SU School of Education
- One of the classes will stay on campus with the Washington students while the other class commutes to tutor the Rankin students