Press release: 2003 : 04 : 11 : USF St. Petersburg’s Dr. Lynette Fields Impacting the Future of Education

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USF St. Petersburg’s Dr. Lynette Fields Impacting the Future of Education

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA (April 11, 2003) – Dr. Lynette J. Fields may not be new to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, but she is the newly named instructor of Educational Leadership. Once the only professor in what she now calls “the fastest-growing program” within the campus’s College of Education, the program’s growth and future potential excite her.

Originally hired in 1995, Field’s focus is on teacher preparation and training future school administrators, especially assistant principals. “In my department, we strive to best prepare our students for what they are going to face as school administrators,” said Fields. “We give them the knowledge base of theory and then really seek to apply that theory in practical, everyday situations.”

Previously serving as adjunct, visiting and assistant professor on USF’s Tampa and St. Petersburg campuses, Fields has taught a variety of courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Her courses in Principles of Educational Administration and Administrative Practicum, as well as others dealing with various facets of curriculum development and instruction, are in high demand among students.

She has conducted numerous research projects and has had several articles published giving teacher candidates valuable information in regards to interviews, classroom management and student discipline.

In one study, Fields designed a training mechanism to teach leadership skills and studied the effects of this training on students in administration preparation programs. “All administrators,” writes Fields, “especially assistant principals, need skills that enable them to plan, implement and evaluate projects where they may lead others.” She has learned that for a fledging administrator, the first year is critical. “New administrators need emotional support and skill training relevant to their new positions,” said Fields.

In an ongoing study, Fields created and implemented a professional development cadre for new assistant principals. Information gleaned from this and other studies will benefit USF St. Petersburg students and the administrators of our schools in coming years.

“I believe I was originally hired at USF St. Petersburg because I care very much about our students,” said Fields. “I am student-centered and am known as being firm, fair, and kind.”

Looking to the future, Fields notes they will be taking a critical look at the existing master’s program and that it may undergo “updating and restructuring.” The department will also look into the feasibility of offering “advanced degrees such as an Educational Specialist and Doctorate of Education at USF St. Petersburg,” she said.

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