2-16-2004

Cynthia Leung: I am USF St. Petersburg

John Husfield

Sonia Helton

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases/923
I AM USF St. Petersburg: Dr. Cynthia Lueng

By: John Husfield | Source: Sonia Helton - Phone: 3-4537
February 16, 2004 12:00AM EST

I AM USF ST. PETERSBURG!

Thanks to Cynthia Leung’s enthusiasm and interest in early childhood literacy and learning, preschoolers at the YWCA/USF Family Village Child Development Center were involved in a project to explore how young children learn scientific vocabulary when their teachers read aloud children’s informational books. This particular project was partially funded by the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County through the USF Collaborative for Children, Families and communities. Cynthia is an Assistant Professor in the College of Education and teaches graduate and undergraduate literacy courses. Her work at Family Village Child Development Center demonstrated the power of reading aloud to young children and showed that 3 and 4 year olds can learn and talk about scientific concepts that are usually taught to older children.

Cynthia taught at universities in Delaware, Hong Kong, and North Dakota before coming to USF St. Petersburg. She worked in American Indian and multicultural education in North Dakota and educated elementary English teachers in Hong Kong where English is taught beginning in first grade. From working with students from diverse cultural backgrounds, Cynthia has developed an interest in the effects of students’ ethnic identity on their responses to literature. Her findings indicate that literary experiences are influenced by the complex interaction of age, gender, personality traits, ethnic identity, and knowledge of other cultures. Her research has been published in journals in Canada, Hong Kong, and the United States.

Her hopes are to continue building relationships with the community and to promote partnerships whereby parents, care takers, and children will become active readers so they can build their vocabularies and develop critical thinking skills. Out of this, it is hoped that an appropriate curriculum will be developed that can be used with ethnically diverse groups of children in the school system.

Mission

USF St. Petersburg offers distinctive graduate and undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences, business and education within a close-knit, student-centered learning community that welcomes individuals from the region, state, nation and world. We conduct wide-ranging, collaborative research to meet society’s needs and engage in service projects and partnerships to enhance the university and community’s social, economic and intellectual life. As an integral and complementary part of a multi-campus university, USF St. Petersburg retains a separate identity and mission while contributing to and benefiting from the associations, cooperation and shared resources of a premier national research university.

Please address your questions to Sonia Helton, BAY 204 Phone: 3-4537

USF St. Petersburg - 140 Seventh Avenue South, St. Petersburg Florida 33701-5016 -- 727-553-4USF
Copyright © 2003, University of South Florida - Direct questions or comments about the web site to: www@stpt.usf.edu