

## Outstanding Middle Grades Program

At the AMLE conference in Louisville, The John H. Lounsbury School of Education at Georgia College and State University was recognized for its outstanding Middle Grades Program and its CMLA Chapter was also recognized as an outstanding Chapter. The following information shares ideas and insights into each of these programs. We congratulate the outstanding work that Georgia College and State University faculty and students are doing.



Faculty members at the John Lounsbury School of Education: Karla Hutchings, Trish Klein, Joann Previts, Dan Bauer, Karynne Kleine, Vicki Deneroff, Nancy Mizelle, Yeprem Mahranian

NAPOMLE Middle Level Teacher Education Program Award  
Middle Grades Teacher Preparation Program  
John H. Lounsbury College of Education  
Georgia College & State University

The Middle Grades Teacher Preparation Program was first accredited by NCATE in 1955, and that accreditation has continued uninterrupted. Dr. Lounsbury's pioneering contributions laid the foundation for this Program to become an "*Architect of Change*." Today faculty continue to systematically assess students, assignments, courses, and the program to ensure that the Middle Grades program remains on the cutting edge of teacher preparation.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's faculty at GCSU took the first steps in developing the current middle grades teacher preparation program and implemented a Junior High

Endorsement. In 1978, students could pursue a degree in Middle Grades Education and licensure in grades 4-8. The program has had until the recent economic downturn a 99% job placement rate (JHL College of Education Survey).

The success of graduates is largely due to the innovative mentored, field based cohort model, which provides Mentor Leaders (i.e., individual faculty assigned to a particular cohort) that follow cohorts through their entire time in the program. It ensures a solid liberal arts grounding and extensive and diverse field experiences (4 different placements during the junior year; at least 5 different placements overall; more than 800 hours of field placement prior to student teaching; and at least 5 weeks of full-time teaching during their 10-week student teaching experience).

The success of the Program is based on a strong ethic of collaboration that faculty model daily as they co-plan, co-teach, and share supervising responsibilities. Faculty members expect teacher candidates to participate in service learning and action research; they expect students to submit proposals and present their own ideas. Over the last 3 years 100% of the Middle Grades candidates have presented at a state, regional, or national conference. To read more about Georgia College and State University's middle grades program go to: <http://www.gcsu.edu/education/graduate/med/middle.htm>

Outstanding CMLA Chapter: John Lounsbury School of Education taken at the October 2011 Summit



NAPOMLE Outstanding CMLA Chapter Award  
Georgia College & State University  
Collegiate Middle Level Association

The Middle Grades teacher candidates of the John H. Lounsbury College of Education (JHL COE) of Georgia College & State University appreciate the history of our institution and legacy of our friend and mentor, Dr. John H. Lounsbury. One way we honor his ideals and those of the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) is by learning to be an *Architect of Change* in Middle Level Education. In so doing teacher candidates come to understand the importance of professionalism and seeing themselves as professional educators. A critical element in this development as professionals is candidates' participation and leadership in our Collegiate Middle Level Association (CMLA) chapter.

Chapter members were selected as the National Host Site from 2007-2009. Members have developed local MOYA and Family Fun Field Day initiatives, as well as a Relay-for-life-team. Officers of the GC CMLA chapter have worked with the Georgia Middle School Association (GMSA) to have an officer who serves as a CMLA Liaison on the GMSA Board of Directors and a regularly scheduled statewide CMLA meeting during the GMSA conference. Most importantly, every October for the past seven years, the GC CMLA chapter plans, organizes and implements a statewide Middle Level Summit to bring teacher candidates and middle level educators together on the Georgia College campus with nationally renowned middle level educators. This fall keynote speakers were Drs. James Beane and Barb Brodhagen, known nationally and internationally for their philosophy and work related to democratic classrooms and integrated curriculum.

The success of the chapter is based on the faculty members who willingly have worked together as a *team of advisors* to support the growth and development of CMLA members and the chapter itself. This advisory structure has provided the chapter continuity and stability as well as new and challenging ideas from year to year.