New Degree Approved!

In May of 2013, Governor Jay Inslee signed a bill allowing Central Washington University the authority to grant the Educational Specialist (EdS) degree. This degree requires further study beyond a masters degree and is common in fields of education requiring specialized study. Dr. Gene Johnson, the former director of CWU’s School Psychology Program, told writers at CWU news, “Educational Specialist is a practical degree that helps educators advance in their careers and prepares them for academic or administrative leadership.”

The EdS replaces the Master of Education (MEd) in School Psychology at CWU. This degree provides students with the ability to specialize their studies and provides the opportunity for in-depth coursework, including a rigorous one-year internship, designed to prepare students to excel in their future careers in education. The School Psychology Training Program also holds program approval from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), and graduates of the program are eligible to hold the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential. It should be noted that CWU was the 12th school psychology training program in the country to be approved by NASP.

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 4 - December 6</td>
<td>Registration for Winter Classes, Talk to your advisor for guidance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9 – December 12</td>
<td>Finals week for Fall classes</td>
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<td>December 17</td>
<td>Grades due to the Registrar by 10 p.m.</td>
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<td>January 6</td>
<td>Winter Quarter classes begin!</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>Graduation deadline for Spring</td>
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<td>During Winter</td>
<td>Are you a junior or sophomore? Use this time to approach faculty about research opportunities on campus – or volunteer in your field. Gain experiences outside the classroom!</td>
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Interested in serving as a participant in student or faculty research? Get involved via the Sona System! Go to https://cwu.sona-systems.com/ for more information!
Faculty is busy (as always) thus far in 2013…

Faculty Presentations:


Pereira, L. (2013, October). The Role of Digital Technologies in Improving Mental Health and Educational Outcomes in Youth. Presented at the World Social Science Forum, Montreal, QB.


Faculty Publications:


Forthcoming Faculty Publications:


Upcoming Faculty Presentations:


Think this work looks amazing? It is! Get involved with faculty research by contacting the faculty member of interest directly.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dr. Robyn Brammer for her recent promotion to the position of Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Brammer started this new position on October 16th, but will continue to work in the Psychology Department as well.
Dr. Wendy Williams was recently appointed as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Trellis Center. She will be attending a meet in Olympia in November to petition to have Sundridge Ranch and the Trellis Center approved as a pilot alternative to traditional "custodial care" programs in the State of Washington.

Per Dr. Williams, “Currently in the State of WA, custodial “group homes” and traditional vocational training centers are the standard for custodial care and training for adults with autism and DD. Sunridge Ranch is the first private home in WA state overseen by a private Board of Directors. In the traditional state model, clients receive state and federal funding which is then returned to the state in exchange for overseeing and funding such facilities. Sunridge Ranch in Kittitas County is owned outright by the four young men who live there (held in trust for them by their parents). In Kittitas County, a group home is defined as more than 5 unrelated individuals with developmental disabilities or mental health problems living together. Because Sunridge is owned by the 4 clients who use their SSI dollars to hire houseparents, they do not exceed the state and local requirements to be classified as a group home that must be overseen by the state. (Note: the houseparents qualify as “one person” because they are married.) The Trellis Center, a training facility that teaches vocational, social and recreational skills to these young men, leases space from Sunridge for a very small annual fee. Trellis is directed by Madison Anspauch, an expert in agriculture and livestock management. She has been with Trellis since its inception and has been in charge of the vocational program for these four young men for over 2 years. She manages the ranch and all of the CWU volunteers that have been active at Trellis for nearly 2 years. With her volunteers and interns, she develops new and exciting curricula to share with the adults at Trellis. In the last 2 years, Trellis has had numerous CWU volunteers and interns from the music, recreation, psychology and other departments. CWU students come to Trellis to share their expertise in exercise and sports, music education, cooking, art and behavior management. The CWU Career Services has been instrumental in developing Cooperative Education Opportunities (PSY 490 and 590) for our students. Trellis has also provided for graduate internship opportunities for the proposed master’s program in Applied Behavior Analysis. The Sunridge Ranch and Trellis Center promote an agricultural lifestyle for adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. Their primary goal is to provide support for young adults to achieve rich, engaged and interactive professional and personal lives. It is their goal to model a new, alternative to traditional custodial care for developmentally different people in Washington State.”

Any students interested in visiting or volunteering at the Trellis Center should contact Dr. Wendy Williams by phone at (509) 963-3679 or via email WilliamW@cwu.edu.