

# VISION

A person with a vision is destined for greatness.

COLLEGE of EDUCATION

Multicultural Student Newsletter

## Freshman Reflection

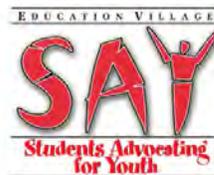
By: Cayla Green  
Freshman, Elementary Education

Cayla Green shares a reflection of her experiences during her first semester at NC State. Cayla, a freshman majoring in Elementary Education, is from Wake Forest, North Carolina.

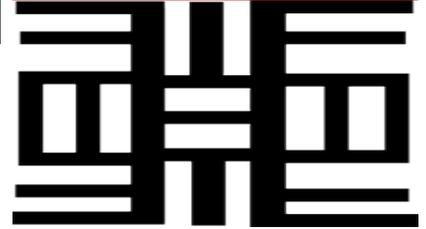
This past semester at NC State has been amazing! I have been able to experience many different activities here that relate to my major, Elementary Education. Currently I am a part of Students Advocating for Youth (SAY) and Read to L.E.A.D. SAY is a living and learning village where we partner with a local elementary school. We go to the school on Tuesdays and mentor 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We recently were paired with our mentees; my mentee is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade girl. She really enjoys reading and science so I have been creating activities to help her strengthen those skills. I usually try to choose activities that will also allow us to bond and get to know one another a little better.



In addition to SAY, I also participate in Read to L.E.A.D.'s Youth for Hope. At Youth for Hope we tutor elementary students and teach them about acceptance and diversity through books that we read and questions that we ask. I really enjoy Youth for Hope because after we get done reading the books the students usually seem to have really enjoyed the book and are always eager to ask questions about the readings; it always starts great discussion on diversity and acceptance of others. Looking forward to next semester I am excited to look into more activities to do at NC State. I plan on applying to both the Passport to Success program and Caldwell Fellows and hope to be involved in those programs. I am also excited to continue working with my SAY mentee and getting to know her strengths and weaknesses. I am really excited to see how my next four years at NC State go!



Winter 2013-2014  
December/January



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- American Education Week
- Cross-Cultural Conversations
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### Upcoming Dates

Last Day of Classes  
Thursday, December 5

Reading Day  
Friday, December 6

Final Exams  
December 9-17

Fall Graduation  
Wednesday, December 18

First Day of Classes  
Monday, January 6

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Campus Wide Commemoration  
Monday, Jan. 13, 6-8PM

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Monday, Jan. 20, No classes

## CED Doctoral Students Share Advice for Undergrads

**Celethia McNeil** acquired her Bachelor and Master of Science in Mathematics from Fayetteville State University (FSU) in Fayetteville, NC. She has research interests in culturally relevant pedagogy, preparation of mathematics teachers in urban context predominated by African Americans, and minority teacher recruitment strategies. Celethia is a full-time student and graduate assistant in the mathematics education doctoral program within the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Upon her graduation in 2015, Celethia's future goals are traveling abroad to help developing countries (within Africa, Jamaica, and many more!) to improve their education systems; teaching mathematics and education courses at her alma mater FSU; professional development with the purposes of raising multicultural awareness and training teachers on pedagogical strategies that are culturally relevant; and becoming world-renown for her future work with urban mathematics education research.

*What would you like undergraduate students to know about you?*

Family and friends are great supports during my doctoral journey. I am very proud of my military roots; having military parents has taught me discipline and to go after my heart's desires. My interests include traveling, shopping, reading, and playing Words with Friends (feel free to request a game with me anytime!).

*What advice would you give to undergraduate students?*

Manage your time wisely! I suggest using an ever-evolving master calendar to include your assignments and deadlines, important dates to remember, study/homework time, meetings, wake up/bedtime, and even play time. I make a daily to-do list to ensure things get accomplished. As an extension to time management, do not burn out on school work by going full throttle every minute of the day. It is imperative to schedule time to relax and have social time, because school can be very mentally exhausting.

**Celethia McNeil**

PhD Student

Mathematics Education

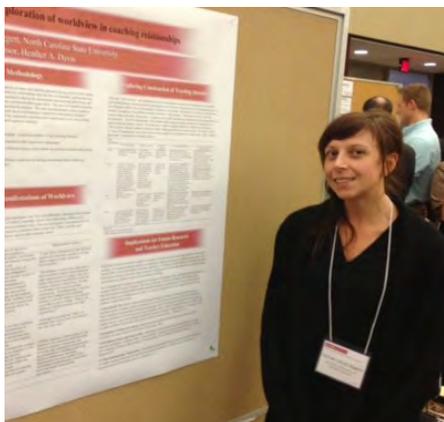
STEM



*What piece of advice would you give to undergraduate students?*

One thing I've learned since my days as an undergraduate is that procrastination is totally the worst. As a teacher, it's so important to manage your time wisely – both for your students and your own sanity. If you tend to procrastinate now, try to develop good work habits during your time here in the College of Ed that you can carry with you out into the field. Also, seek out opportunities to meet new people. A huge part of the college experience is the potential to gain an appreciation for perspectives that are different from yours. The easiest way to do that is to interact with new people!

**Hannah Carson Baggett** is a PhD student in the department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Counselor Education (CICE). She did her undergraduate and graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she graduated with a B.A. in French and Economics, and a M.A.T. in K-12 French Education. Her teaching experience began in Montpellier, France, where she taught English to French students in a primary school. She also taught French at an elementary school in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, and at a high school in Durham Public Schools.



**Hannah Carson Baggett**

PhD Student

Curriculum and Developmental Supervision

CICE

*What would you like undergraduate students to know about you?*

Right now, I'm teaching ED 204 - Intro to 21st Century Teaching, which I've taught for the last three semesters and totally love! My research is focused on World Language programs and achievement of students who are traditionally underserved in public schools, and mentoring and professional development for teacher candidates and emergent teachers. When I'm not doing PhD student stuff, I like to listen to records and go to rock shows with my husband.

# NC State Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

*By: Jessica Anstead*

*Junior, Secondary Science Education*

*Tribal affiliation: Haliwa-Saponi*

November is Native American Heritage Month, however, what exactly is Native American Heritage Month and what does it look like at NC State? Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate culture, traditions, family, and who we are; a time to acknowledge the struggles, success, and the continuation to thrive as Native peoples. It is a time to honor our spiritual beliefs and to show that our people and our culture are not just one for the history books.



Throughout the month of November, NC State's Native organizations and students have pulled together to showcase a broad spectrum of what is it to be Native American. To kick-off the month, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) traveled to Denver, Colorado for its annual National Conference. Here these students had the opportunity to network with trail-blazing companies and other indigenous students across the United States. There were also various educational forums, inspirational speakers and a panel discussion on Native Americans and trends in the fashion industry. This year to celebrate Native American Culture Month at NC State there was a painted banner tribute to honor Native veterans, which was displayed at the events throughout the month; Rock your Mocs Day, where Native students showed off their unique moccasins; and a frybread demonstration showing how to prepare a Native American staple food. Of course, NC State's annual events took place as well. Culture Night, which showcased dancing, drumming and regalia, a dreamcatcher workshop, where students could create their own, and the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Native Celebration hosted by the North Carolina Museum of History.

These events displayed the diversity amongst Native Americans by highlighting different aspects of our culture and traditions and educating the NC State and Triangle community. During my time here at NC State, I have become more comfortable with who I am and proud of my culture. I am vocal about where I come from and always willing to teach others about my culture. I think that it is important for us to show people that we are not a dead culture, that our people and our culture still flourish. I am not a mythical creature; we still exist, and our culture is important. I think that it is vital to understand where you come from, be proud of who are, give back to your community, and carry on traditions. Native American Heritage Month is a time in which we celebrate and embrace our everyday lives. It is a time where we educate others and invite them to learn about our customs. And with that, I wish you all, a Happy Native American Heritage Month.



# American Education Week

November 18-22



**AAASE Taco Bar**



**Senior Gift Campaign**



**Passport to Success**  
Wake Young Women's Leadership  
Academy School Visit

# American Education Week

## November 18-22



**ELMO  
Coin Drive**



**Education Council  
Letters to a Future  
Teacher Project**

**SAY Breakfast  
Food Drive**



## Building the Community for Latino Student Success

**By: Margaret Leak**  
*Senior, Mathematics Education*

“Your ropes are only as long as you set them up to be, and you can’t just expect those ropes to go faster.” In the Cross-Cultural Conversations workshop “Supporting Latino Students and Families in the Schools,” Dr. Andrew Behnke, associate professor of human development and founder of the Juntos program at NC State, spoke to students and professionals about how to support Latino families in a way that leads to success. Students and their families come to schools with specific skill sets and we must work within those skill sets to build success. Dr. Behnke shared how they do this in the Juntos program, how teachers can do this with their students, and the best way to approach those skill sets.

As a Spanish minor and Math Education student, I found this presentation to be very insightful. The Latino community has a culture that is much different from my own, so it is important to remember that the best way to help them is to ask them what they need help with. For instance, many Latino parents want to participate in decision-making, but the large PTA meetings turn them away because they feel as if they cannot contribute. It is also important to understand the backgrounds of each family, and not treat them all the same based on our prejudices. This is actually vital in every interaction I have with my students and their families, no matter their cultural identity.

In addition, Dr. Behnke had some insightful tips for relating to students in general, such as using honest, amazing praise and stealth education. Most importantly, spend your time getting to know people before making plans to help those people since they know what they need better than you do and they have their own unique stories. It was an interesting and insightful presentation, and opened my eyes to the awesome things that Juntos is doing in the Hispanic community. If you have any more questions about Juntos or working with the Hispanic community, contact Dr. Andrew Behnke at [andrew\\_behnke@ncsu.edu](mailto:andrew_behnke@ncsu.edu).



**Dr. Andrew Behnke**



*Published by the  
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## **Equal Opportunity Institute**

**By: Nicole Pellegrino**

*Sophomore, Middle Grades Math Education*



*Eliminating prejudice. Overcoming obstacles. Imparting knowledge.*

I am proud to be a part of the EOI for my sophomore year from 2013-2014. EOI, the Equal Opportunity Institute, is a program here at NC State designed to increase knowledge, develop skills, enhance professional development, and improve the overall campus climate through various workshops offered at the University. These workshops focus on learning about diverse communities of people and developing the skills to work with people different from myself. I decided to become a part of the institute through the Passport to Success Program, which proposed the EOI to serve as my Cross Cultural Skills Signature Event.

I have learned so much in such little time it amazes me. I have learned how I would handle uncomfortable situations at the workplace, how to treat people different than me, how to approach them without making either of us feel uncomfortable, and also what laws apply at the University to protect certain classes. Working with my peers and listening to the speakers with the workshops (The Protected Classes of Race and Color and Working with Diverse Populations) I have already gained so much knowledge to put to use at the University and into my future career as an Education Major. I am very excited to continue my journey through the EOI as I am signed up for many additional workshops that will increase my knowledge and skills working with a diverse population at such a large university. Some of my future workshops include, Leadership Tools for Women, Exploring Oppression, Leading Diverse Groups Through Conflict, and the Fundamentals of Equal Opportunity. Hopefully some of you would like to apply to be a part of the program and are encouraged to apply next fall to be a part of the 2014-2015 EOI.

## **Congratulations CED Graduates!**

*Best wishes to the following students graduating in  
Summer & Fall 2013*

**Jasmine Brunson**

**Jimael Dixson**

**Tony Gilliam**

**Douglas Harris**

**Lateefah Moses**

**Sneha Patel**

**Stephen Peterson**

**Jin Sung Yeo**

