

School Research Partnership Projects (Fall 2009 – Spring 2014)

The Duke University School Research Partnership (SRP) Office facilitates collaboration between Duke researchers and area school districts and other community organizations to create and maintain mutually beneficial relationships. A key initiative of the SRP is to facilitate and coordinate multiple undergraduate independent study projects each semester. As part of this effort, students work in partnership with school and other agency leaders to produce a research paper as well as an action-oriented document on a topic requested by the partner. This list highlights all topics since the SRP's independent study partnership began in Fall 2009.

Spring 2014

- Topic:** Student Recommendations for New Summer STEM programs at NCSSM
Student: Tiffany Chien, biology major
Partner: Geoff Coltrane, Director of Institutional Research and Engagement, NC School of Science and Mathematics
Advisor: Ben Goodman, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** How Students and Administrators Can Work Together to Foster Greater Student Ownership of School Issues
Student: Natalie Hall, public policy major
Partner: Tom Forcella, Superintendent, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Magda Parvey, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Advisor: Marta Sanchez, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Alternative Regulatory Frameworks for The Little School at Duke
Student: Lia Cromwell, public policy major
Partner: Monica Pallett, Community and Outdoor Learning, The Little School at Duke
Advisor: Joel Rosch, Senior Research Scholar and Policy Liaison, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Low-Income, High Minority School Districts: Policy Options for Academic Success
Student: Chandler Thomas, public policy major
Partner: Dan Kimberg, Founder and Executive Director, Student U
Advisor: Shane Goodridge, Visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice, Program in Education
- Topic:** An Invaluable Resource: Tracking and Interviewing Hill Center Alumni
Student: Chris Geary, public policy major
Partner: Bryan Brandner, Principal/Director of Student Programs, Hill Center
Advisor: Carol Ripple, Associate Director for Education Research & Engagement, Social Science Research Institute

Fall 2013

- Topic:** Hospital-to-School Transition Programs for Children with Chronic Medical Conditions
Student: Jillian Froelick, sociology major, Child Policy Research certificate
Partner: Rick Lemke, Principal, Duke Hospital School
Advisor: Ann Skinner, Research Project Manager, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Educational Issues in Adolescents with Eating Disorders
Student: Ashley Pollard, public policy major
Partner: Mindy Elliot, Education Coordinator, Duke Hospital School and Veritas
Advisor: Liz Snyder, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Personal and Academic Integrity within the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City High Schools
Student: Sarah Collins, public policy major
Partner: Tom Forcella, Superintendent, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Magda Parvey, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Advisor: Marta Sanchez, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Project CATCH- Effective evaluation methods and scale up of peer mentoring
Student: Michelle Nguyen, public policy major, Child Policy Research certificate
Partner: Terri Mozingo, Assistant Superintendent for Research & Assessment, Durham Public Schools
Advisor: Jeff Quinn, Research Project Manager, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Follow-up Survey of Hill Center Alumni – Career aspirations and trajectories of students with learning differences
Student: Christophe Viret, public policy major
Partner: Bryan Brander, Principal/Director of Student Programs, Hill Center
Advisor: Nicole Lawrence, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy

Spring 2013

Topic: Literature survey of the CATCH (Caring about the Concepts that Help) in-school peer tutoring program
Student: Allison Smalley, psychology and neuroscience major
Partner: Terri Mazingo, Assistant Superintendent for Research & Accountability, Durham Public Schools
Advisor: Ashley Corra and Jeff Quinn, research project managers, Center for Child and Family Policy

Topic: Children's Literacy
Student: Shelby Hart-Armstrong, public policy major
Partner: Natalie Beyer, Member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education
Advisor: Ann Skinner, Research Project Manager, Center for Child and Family Policy

Topic: Impact of school voucher program on student achievement
Student: Christina Chen, psychology and neuroscience major
Partner: Heidi Carter, Chair, Durham Public Schools Board of Education
Advisor: Desiree Murray, Associate Research Professor, Social Science Research Institute

Topic: One-to-one technology program
Student: Preston Cotnoir and Lindsay Rosenthal, psychology and neuroscience majors
Partner: Angie Veitch, Director of Media and Technology, Orange County Schools
Advisor: Beth Gifford, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
David Rabiner, Associate Director, Center for Child and Family Policy

Topic: Survey on areas of academic need for incoming students
Student: Julia Hoos, psychology and neuroscience major
Partner: Geoff Coltrane, Director of Institutional Research and Extended Programs, NC School of Science and Mathematics
Advisor: Ben Goodman, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy

Topic: Eliciting input from high school students; high school students' perceptions of their learning/education
Student: Allison Schulhof, public policy major, Children in Contemporary Society certificate
Partner: Tom Forcella, Superintendent, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Magda Parvey, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Advisor: Clara Muschkin, Assistant Research Professor, Sanford School of Public Policy

Fall 2012

- Topic:** Student Growth, Assessment and Family Involvement
Student: Blake O'Connor, public policy major, psychology minor, Children in Contemporary Society certificate
Partner: John Heffernan, Director, Central Park School for Children
Advisor: Ben Goodman, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Strategies for eliciting input from high school students; high school students' perceptions of their learning/education
Student: Allison Schulhof, public policy major, Children in Contemporary Society certificate
Partner: Tom Forcella, Superintendent, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Magda Parvey, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Advisor: Leslie Babinski, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Standards-based grading
Student: Jacqueline Stedman, psychology and neuroscience major, education minor
Partner: Teresa Daye, Executive Director for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Durham Public Schools
Advisor: Liz Snyder, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Middle School Scheduling: An Exploration of Best Practices
Student: Seung-Yen Park, public policy and economics majors, Markets and Management Studies certificate
Partner: Julie Spencer, Area Superintendent for Middle School Curriculum, Instruction and School Improvement, Durham Public Schools
Advisor: Susan Wynn, Associate Professor of the Practice, Program in Education
- Topic:** Literature survey of the CATCH (Caring about the Concepts that Help) in-school peer tutoring Program
Student: Michelle Nguyen, public policy major, Children in Contemporary Society certificate
Partner: Terri Mazingo, Assistant Superintendent for Research and Accountability, Durham Public Schools
Advisor: Ashley Corra and Jeff Quinn, Research Project Managers, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Out of school time
Student: Markia Bonner, psychology and neuroscience major
Partner: Mary Mathew, Program Director, East Durham Children's Initiative
Advisor: Nicole Lawrence, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy
- Topic:** Effective summer bridge program
Student: Matt Truwit, psychology and neuroscience major
Partner: Geoff Coltrane, Director of Institutional Research and Extended Programs, N.C. School of Science and Mathematics
Advisor: David Rabiner, Associate Director, Center for Child and Family Policy

Topic: One-to-one technology program
Student: Kirsten Osborne, public policy major
Partner: Angie Veitch, Director of Media and Technology, Orange County Schools
Advisor: Beth Gifford, Research Scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy

Spring 2012

Partner: Mary Jane Palmer (Exec. Director of HR Operations, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Katherine Morrow
Topic: Beginning teacher mentoring in Durham Public Schools

Partner: Kristen Bell (Exceptional Children's Programs, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Nicole Schollmeyer
Topic: Best practices for exceptional children's programs: Focus on Durham's elementary schools

Partner: Terri Mazingo (Testing, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Adria Kinney
Topic: Impact and policy implications of single-gender classrooms and schools

Partner: Angie Veitch (Director of Media & Technology, Orange County Schools)
Advisor: Beth Gifford (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Chris Gierl
Topic: Best practices for implementing a one-to-one laptop program

Partner: Mary Calhoun (Director of Testing & Accountability, Orange County Schools)
Advisor: Clara Muschkin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Cate Auerbach
Topic: Academically and intellectually gifted programs in Orange County, NC

Partner: Geoff Coltrane (Director of Institutional Research and Extended Programs, NC School of Science and Mathematics)
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Aayda Deshpande
Topic: Increasing number of minority applicants to the NC School of Science and Math

Partner: Bud Lavery (Communities in Schools)
Advisor: Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Nina Quattrocchi
Topic: Creating a summer program to reduce the loss in summer math achievement for low income students

Fall 2011

- Partner:** Wayde Johnson (Lead School Psychologist, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Lauren Hendricks
Topic: Disproportionality
- Partner:** Maria Johnson (Instructional Support Coordinator, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: David Malone (Duke Program in Education)
Student: Ryan Lipes
Topic: Smaller-Themed Learning Environments
- Partner:** Sheila Miglarese (Volunteer Services Coordinator, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Ivy Prince
Topic: Best Practices for Parent Involvement
- Partner:** Julie Spencer (Professional Growth & Development, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: Ben Goodman (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Emily Eshman
Topic: Transition Centers for Transition Grade Levels where students deemed at-risk of failure are assigned to centers or classes during their transition year
- Partner:** Debbie Pitman (Area Superintendent, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Rohan Taneja
Topic: The Effect of Teacher Assistants on Student Achievement
- Partner:** Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor: Anne-Marie Iselin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Curtis Beach
Topic: What are the best practices for reducing truancy?
- Partner:** Natalie Beyer (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor: Susan Wynn (Duke Program in Education)
Student: Gulnaar Laur
Topic: Impact of Performance-based grade level assignments vs. age-based grade assignment on academics on student's academics and outcomes?
- Partner:** Bud Lavery (Communities in Schools)
Advisor: Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Allie Yee
Topic: What are the best practices for positively impacting students' motivation and persistence, particularly at the middle and high school level?
- Partner:** Richard Lemke (Duke Hospital School principal)
Advisor: Nicole Lawrence (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Rachel Garcia
Topic: Different ways that schools are structured and different approaches to meet educational needs of children who are hospitalized for extended periods.

Spring 2011

- Partner:** Mike Rieder (Deputy Secretary, Court Services, NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)
Advisor: Anne-Marie Iselin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Kara Dimon
Topic: Examine the relation between the risk assigned to juveniles (i.e., low, medium, or high risk) with the disposition of their case (i.e., community-based program, probation, etc.).
- Partner:** Bud Lavery (Director of Communities in Schools of Durham)
Advisor: Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Michael Asher
Topic: Efforts to reduce the drop-out rate in Durham
- Partner:** Bud Lavery (Director of Communities in Schools of Durham)
Advisor: Liz Snyder (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Emily Bray
Topic: Communities in Schools reading initiative
- Partner:** Richard Lemke (Duke Hospital School principal)
Advisor: Nicole Lawrence (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Jean Rheem
Topic: Collect survey data from the parents and possibly students at the school
- Partner:** Natalie Beyer (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Stephanie Kershaw
Topic: Research best practices for involving students in decision making
- Partner:** Eric Becoats (Durham Public Schools Superintendent)
Advisor: Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Catalina Hidalgo
Topic: Best way to measure teacher effectiveness
- Partner:** Gail Taylor (Carter Community School principal)
Advisor: Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Jeff Scholl
Topic: Whether Carter should expand to include a high school
- Partner:** Nancy Cox (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor: Ben Goodman (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Briana Nofil
Topic: Survey PTAs, art teachers, and principals at Durham Public Schools to assess their arts resources, including relationships with art program providers

Fall 2010

- Partner:** Gary Kearney (Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)
Advisor: Anne-Marie Iselin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Maddie Pongor
Topic: What does research say about the relation between suspensions and arrests?
- Partner:** Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)
Advisor: Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Ian Hardwood
Topic: What are schools doing for their students with the greatest challenges and what does research say about particular strategies?
- Partner:** Stacey Wilson-Norman (Durham Assistant Superintendent of Elementary School Curriculum and Instruction)
Advisor: Susan Wynn (Duke Program in Education)
Student: Caitlin McGrath
Topic: Guided strategies to increase vocabulary development in ELL students
- Partner:** Eric Becoats (Durham Public Schools Superintendent)
Advisor: David Malone (Duke Program in Education)
Student: Alex Reese
Topic: What strategies exist for implementing differentiated teacher compensation in public schools? How can we attract the best teachers to DPS?
- Partner:** Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)/Meg Goodhand (E.K. Powe Elementary School teacher)
Advisor: Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Dana Weiner
Topic: What are the best practices for organizing an after-school tutoring program to boost student achievement?
- Partner:** David Reese (Director, East Durham Children's Initiative)
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Chelsea Arrington
Topic: What does research say about strategies to help disadvantaged students and their families operationalize plans to attend college, starting at an early age?
- Partner:** Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor: Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Laura Nickelhoff
Topic: Effect of NCLB, high stakes testing, and school-based accountability on achievement gap or achievement of under-performing students/high performers
- Partner:** Melanie Williams (Neal Middle School Assistant Principal)
Advisor: Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Swapanthi Nagulpally
Topic: What does research say about the impact of uniforms and what has been the impact, if any, at Neal?

Partner: Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)
Advisor: Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Kamilah Barnette
Topic: What affects student's and family's decision to switch schools? When families leave Forest View, why do they leave and where do they go?

Spring 2010

- Partner:** Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Naomi Harris
Topic: How can schools increase parental involvement among low-income families?
- Partner:** Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)
Advisor: Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Brian Pike
Topic: What does the research say about the best approaches to structure Academically & Intellectually Gifted programs at the elementary school level?
- Partner:** Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)/
Meg Goodhand (E.K. Powe Elementary School teacher)
Advisor: Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Joy Lampkin
Topic: What are the best practices for organizing an after-school tutoring program to boost student achievement?
- Partner:** Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Alison Byrnes
Topic: How can local elementary schools make better use of the student tutors, provided by Duke, to assist struggling early readers?
- Partner:** Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor: Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Amy Czaja
Topic: Research literature on the impact of nutrition on students' cognitive functioning and how Durham's school lunch program be made consistent with this
- Partner:** Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)
Advisor: Susan Wynn (Duke Program in Education)
Student: Hanna Guerrier
Topic: Different models for structuring ESL programs at the elementary school level. What approaches have the strongest research support?
- Partner:** Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor: Anne-Marie Iselin (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Graham Sharpe
Topic: Alternatives to school suspensions: How does the use of suspensions within Durham's secondary schools relate to a variety of school characteristics?
- Partner:** Robin Wright (K-12 Director, Exceptional Children's Program, Durham Public Schools)
Advisor: Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Chelsea Koglmeier
Topic: Effectiveness of The Corrective Reading Program in improving reading skills of exceptional students as well as others performing below grade level

Partner: Ellen Reckhow (Durham County Commissioner)
Advisor: Robert Murphy (Center for Child and Family Health)
Student: Anne-Marie Gordon
Topic: The effect of family's mobility and the requisite school transitions on immigrant Spanish speaking youth.

Fall 2009

Partner: Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)
Advisor: Ann Skinner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Abigail Bowes
Topic: Effective models for reaching our ESL (English as a second language) students, pullout vs. inclusion

Partner: Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Alison Byrnes
Topic: Effective tutoring models at the elementary school level

Partner: Heidi Carter (member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education)
Advisor: Joel Rosch (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Amy Czaja
Topic: Synthesis of research on child nutrition and related cognitive and behavior outcomes

Partner: Neil Clay (Forest View Elementary School principal)
Advisor: Leslie Babinski (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Brian Pike
Topic: Effective models for reaching our AIG (academic & intellectually gifted) students, pullout vs. inclusion

Partner: Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)
Advisor: Jenni Owen (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Dana Weiner
Topic: Effective after-school programs that increase student achievement

Partner: Jeanne Bishop (E.K. Powe Elementary School principal)
Advisor: David Rabiner (Duke Center for Child and Family Policy)
Student: Naomi Harris
Topic: Effective strategies for school-community engagement