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College of Education, Georgia Southern University, "College of Education News" (2017). *College of Education News (2011-2023)*. 193.

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COE hosts workshop for graduate research

June 6, 2017



College of Education specialist and doctoral students discuss their research during the workshop.

On Thursday, June 1, over 30 graduate students attended the College of Education's (COE) annual summer Graduate Research Workshop.

The workshop is held to assist in preparing students for academic writing and research to be completed at the graduate-level. Attendees for this year's workshop received information pertaining to graduate academic research including resources and information on the APA style, literature reviews, research methods, program policies, the Institutional Research Board (IRB) process and how to publish and disseminate research.

"We host the summer graduate research workshop to help students in Ed.S. and Ed.D. degree programs to get a leg up on their final capstone research projects," said [Tracy Linderholm, Ph.D.](#), professor and associate dean of graduate education and research for the College of Education. "Over the years, we have found that the workshop is equally valuable for students who are new to the research process and

perhaps new to their program—as it is for advanced students who may need a little motivation and a final push to finish their projects.”

A mock dissertation defense was also held to provide students with insight into the defense process. Pertinent to the purpose of the event, COE faculty member [Richard Cleveland, Ph.D.](#) presented research during the mock defense, originally conducted by fellow faculty member [Bryan Griffin, Ph.D.](#), on the negative correlation of self efficacy and anxiety doctoral students face when completing their dissertation.

The research results suggested that students’ fear of the dissertation process could be better managed if they are provided with more information about the process as well as by inviting students to attend defenses of other students. The mock defense served as an opportunity for the College’s graduate students to experience the defense process and address any questions or concerns they had.

“In addition to being a great way to refresh and update your knowledge on research topics and procedures, the workshop is a wonderful opportunity to interact with professors and fellow students,” said Linderholm. “The connections formed with fellow students prove valuable, as they can provide support for each other when it comes time to complete their independent research projects.”

Several COE faculty participated in the workshop including: [Richard Cleveland, Ph.D.](#), [Bryan Griffin, Ph.D.](#), [Lucas Jensen, Ph.D.](#), [Chelda Smith, Ph.D.](#), [Sabrina Ross, Ph.D.](#), [Lina Soares, Ph.D.](#), [Meca Williams-Johnson, Ph.D.](#), [Yasar Bodur, Ph.D.](#), [Teri Melton, Ed.D.](#), and Graduate Academic Services Center Director [Lydia Cross](#).

The Graduate Research Workshop is hosted each summer and invites all specialist and doctoral-level graduate students to attend.

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Jenkins Co. educators experience the Innovation Studio

June 6, 2017



Charles Hodges, Ph.D. is pictured working with a group of educators from Jenkins County.

Teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators and other school personnel from Jenkins County Schools joined College of Education (COE) on Friday, June 2 for a One-day Maker Experience in the College's Innovation Studio.

COE Associate Professor Charles Hodges, Ph.D. describes a One-day Maker Experience as a "one-day crash course introduction to many of the technologies that teachers use in k-12 makerspaces or STEM labs."

Attendees from the Jenkins County Schools were given the opportunity to work hands-on with technology featured in the Innovation Studio including robots and 3D printing, as well as the web-based coding program, Scratch.

"Jenkins County School system is interested in innovations in education and makerspaces," said Hodges. "The school system is a very progressive, small rural system that is always looking for ways to innovate and stay current with the meaningful use of technology."

Hodges, who teaches instructional technology, says it is vital to demonstrate not only how to properly use various technologies of today but also to directly apply how these innovations can be used in the classroom to enhance and expand instruction.

“When educators work with us in the Innovation Studio, they see the ‘state-of-the-art’ technologies for schools and discuss how they can be used and integrated into their classes in meaningful ways by interacting with instructional technology faculty who teach and do research on these ideas,” said Hodges.



An educator from Jenkins County watches as an Ozobot, a small robot, follows lines she traced on paper and changes directions based on the colors marked on the path.

Jenkins County Board of Education is in the process of constructing a new P-12 school facility, and Hodges explained that visiting school personnel were also interested in knowing what cutting edge technology could be included in their future classrooms.

“Getting to work hands-on with the various technologies lets them see how they work, and gives them an idea of what might work in their classrooms,” he explained.

The College of Education’s Innovation Studio is a makerspace dedicated to serving educators, students, staff, youth and local community members to foster a culture of innovation and provide experience with leading-edge technology. The studio houses contemporary equipment including 3D printers, a virtual reality headset, a large screen projection system, a television with video gaming systems, robotics tools and more.

For more information about the Innovation Studio or to schedule training, contact innovationstudio@georgiasouthern.edu.

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