Dear Educational Psychology family,

2015 was another great year for the Department of Educational Psychology. This fall, we kicked off a regular colloquium series, bringing in renowned educational psychology researchers from across the globe to share their ground breaking work with faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

In December, we said good bye to Sue Rose and Sandy Christenson. I'd like to thank them for their incredible contributions to the Department and University of Minnesota. This month, Debbie Golos joins our special education program. Welcome, Debbie, to the Educational Psychology family. We can't wait to see where you take the Deaf and hard of hearing program.

In research news, two of our early childhood assessment systems, Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) and Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDIs), were recently rated highly by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Congratulations to Theodore J. Christ, Scott McConnell, Alisha Wackerle-Hollman and Michael Rodriguez on this tremendous accomplishment.

Finally, registration is now open for the Educational Equity in Action convening which will take place June
20 and 21. The conference will bring together education leaders, researchers, policy makers, and non-profit organizations committed to improving educational equity in our state. We hope to see you there.

All the best in 2016.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Maruyama

Department Chair

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**Calendar**

- March 3: Colloquium series: Susan Goldman, Ph.D.
- March 4: Graduate Student Research Day (GSRD)
- April 27: Colloquium series: Art Graesser, Ph.D.
- May 12: CEHD commencement
- **June 20-21: Ed Equity in Action: A statewide convening at the University of Minnesota**

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**Two U early childhood assessment systems rated highly by MDE**
The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has released the findings of its review of early childhood online assessment systems for the state. Two systems developed by Department of Educational Psychology faculty and researchers, Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) and Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDIs), were identified as top-rated tools. [More.](#)

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**Rose Vukovic challenges future special education teachers to imagine more**

Rose Vukovic stumbled upon a career in special education with some help from an unlikely mentor—her English 101 professor at a small community college in Prince George, Canada. It was Stan Chung who first inspired her to think bigger. [More.](#)

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**Welcome Dr. Robin Codding & Dr. Clayton Cook**
The Department of Educational Psychology's school psychology program welcomes Dr. Robin Codding. We sat down with Dr. Codding and Dr. Cook and asked them each a few questions about what brought him to school psychology and the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Codding received her Ph.D. from Syracuse University and completed her pre- and post-doctoral fellowship at the May Institute where she served as a behavioral and educational consultant for students with various disabilities and brain injuries. In 2010, Dr. Codding was chosen as the co-recipient of APA Division 16's Lightner Witmer Early Career Scholar Award. Read Dr. Codding's full interview.

Dr. Cook received his Ph.D. from the University of California - Riverside. His dissertation explored the link between behavior intervention plan quality and student outcomes under real world conditions. Before pursuing his doctorate, Dr. Cook worked as a paraprofessional for students with emotional and behavioral disorders. Read Dr. Cook's full interview.

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**Events**

**Building connections: Educational Equity in Action gathers state leaders June 2016**

Through the Educational Equity Resource Center (EERC), our mission is to connect University research and programs with K-12 educators in and out of school, translate research to practice and encourage collaboration and cooperation around the issue of educational equity. In 2016, we plan to both continue and expand our efforts centered around a very unique and exciting convening of state leaders.

Read the full article.

Register now.

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**Educational Psychology & Yackel Endowment host 2015-2016 colloquium series**

On November 18, the Department of Educational Psychology hosted its second talk in the 2015-2016 Colloquium series with Carol Connor, Ph.D., "Personalizing Literacy Instruction: Research & Technology." Dr. Connor addressed literacy tools to encourage improvement in children's reading comprehension. She specifically discussed individual differences and models of instruction, classroom observations, correlational studies and the development
of Assessment-to-Instruction software (A2i).

The next colloquium will be March 3. Professor Susan Goldman from UIC will discuss her research on the project READI for grades 6-12.

Read more.

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