CRDEUL Annual Activity Report
Activity Report of the Center for Research on Developmental Education and Urban Literacy (CRDEUL)

Fiscal Activity Period – July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Submitted by: Dana Britt Lundell, Program Director
To: Dean Taylor, GC Executive Committee, Dan Detzner, CRDEUL Advisory Board, CRDEUL Web Site

A. Progress Summary

1. Goals
The Center for Research on Developmental Education and Urban Literacy (CRDEUL), in partnership with General College (GC) at the University of Minnesota, promotes and develops multi-disciplinary theory, research, and practice in developmental education and urban literacy. The Center identifies future directions in the field locally, regionally, and nationally by bringing together a diverse range of faculty, students, and community organizations for research collaborations. Located in the only public Big Ten research university situated in its state’s major urban site, the Center provides a unique access point to bring together a broad range of faculty, students, and community organizations to focus on common research interests in developmental education and urban literacy.

During the academic year 03-04, we continued this mission successfully to promote the visibility and development of research in these fields at the regional and national levels (see Specific Accomplishments). The Center’s Director, Faculty Advisors, GRA, and Program Associate accomplished and surpassed their annual goals, focusing on the continuation and success of all existing programs, publications, and related projects. Additionally, we continue to increase and communicate directly with our affiliate base through ongoing networking and dissemination activities, as well as refining our goals and developing new collaborative research projects as they become appropriate in forwarding the Center’s mission.

This Activity Report includes details about accomplishments, highlights, budget, evaluation of outcomes, and future planning. This Report is also available online at: http://www.gen.umn.edu/research/crdeul/publications.htm.

2. Specific Accomplishments
Major accomplishments during CRDEUL’s 03-04 phase, sustained by central funding from the Dean’s Office in General College, included ongoing administration and operations, the continuation and development of all research programs, and dissemination activities.
Administration and Operations
CRDEUL staff collaborates as a team to conduct research and coordinate the Center’s programs. Specifically, the Director oversees all aspects all aspects of CRDEUL administrative operations, staff, and programs. The Faculty Advisors develop and promote research and dissemination activities, and the Program Associate coordinates and develops work in all program areas. The GRA works on ongoing assigned research projects and initiatives. The following administrative activities occurred:

- Bi-weekly, all-staff meetings.
- Weekly individual staff meetings with Director (Sr. Advisor and Program Associate).
- Monthly meetings with Director, Sr. Faculty Advisor, and Outreach Faculty Advisor to develop and complete CRDEUL projects, such as strategic planning for outreach activities, GC Book proposal development, research writing, and ongoing dissemination activities.
- Monthly Director meetings with Dean Taylor for updates and feedback on progress.
- Meetings with GC Executive Committee for updates and feedback as invited.
- Annual regional Advisory Board meeting (spring), usually convened by Director, was instead held in conjunction with Advisors’ work in Center’s regional Metropolitan Education project.
- Advisory Board subcommittees and work projects (awards, grants, events, research, publications, nominations), chaired by Director.
- Consultation with national advisors on research and program development.
- Preparation and tracking of budget by Director.
- Director and Program Associate maintained and continued to improve the use of office space in 333 including library shelving, book and journal collection, resource board, publications storage, and visitor check-in station.
- Director completed Program Associate annual review (July 2003).
- Completion and submission of annual Activity Report to Advisory Board, Director of Academic Affairs, Dean Taylor, and the CRDEUL affiliates via Web site.

Visiting Scholar
- November 10-11, 2004, featuring Mamokgethi Setati, senior lecturer in mathematics education from the University of Witwatersraand, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Visit included two public presentations (“Use of Languages in a Primary Multilingual Mathematics Classroom in South Africa,” “Educational Research: From ‘With’ or ‘On’ Teachers to ‘With’ or ‘On’ Teachers) and a public discussion (“Re-presenting Data from Multilingual Classrooms”).
- Visit also included a GC Student Open House held in the Math Center.
- Attendees at these events were approximately 120 people from GC, UMN, and region (20 GC students, 80 GC faculty and staff, and 20 regional).
- Visit was co-sponsored by the GC Multicultural Concerns Committee.

Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium
- Director led the Planning Committee for the Dean’s initiative on “Meeting the Needs of Under-Served Students in Developmental Education,” including Sr. Faculty Advisor and Susan Hipp from Century and Community Technical College.
- Hosted First Intentional Meeting on January 6, 2004, including 37 participants from postsecondary institutions, representing eight Twin Cities campuses.
- Hosted Second Intentional Meeting on May 22, 2004, including 50 participants from multiple postsecondary and secondary institutions and community organizations in the Twin Cities.
• Compiled Summary Reports (available on Web site).
• Began planning and reserved space for a metropolitan-wide conference with an anticipated attendance of up to 250 people on January 15, 2005.

Forums
• Supervised and organized monthly Forums featuring regional topics and presenters, including:
  - Are U in or are U out? Implications of Affirmative for Higher Education
  - Strengthening the bridge to College: Commanding English Outreach to High School Students
  - Developing Community: Teaching and Advising in General College Learning Communities
  - The Minnesota Point of View in Counseling Psychology
  - The Founding of General College, and College Readiness and the Assessment Conundrum.
• Forum attendance averaged 20 per session. Annual total was 100 attendees (59 from GC, 41 from non-GC or off campus).

Resource Center
• Maintained CRDEUL library and resource center, such as organizing acquisitions, ordering and maintaining annual journal subscriptions, placing annual book order, ordering supplies, and monitoring electronic check-out/in system for tracking visitors and check-out/in items.
• Maintained CRDEUL resource center including information board for conference materials, professional development notebook for job postings, publication resources, and guest book for tracking visitors.
• Began conversations (Arendale) with potential book donor to CRDEUL resource center.

Awards
• Sponsored awards program including Research Mini Grants (winner: Susan Staats for research project on Somali mathematics students in GC) and Henry Borow Award for Outstanding Dissertation Research in Developmental Education and Urban Literacy (winner: Tabitha Grier).

Grants and Research
• Finished collaboration with Multicultural Awareness Project for Institutional Transformation (MAP-IT) research subcommittee of Multicultural Concerns Committee, including dissemination of MAP-IT and presentations at various regional and national conferences.
• Conducted ongoing CRDEUL research projects, such as MAP-IT student survey (Jeanne Higbee) and survey at Metropolitan Education Consortium (Jeanne Higbee).
• Completed final phase of the Future Directions Multicultural Initiative (FDMI), led by Jeanne Higbee and Kwabena Siaka, to continue national work on the intersections of multiculturalism and developmental education.
• Continued writing and research for the K-12/GC Transitions Study (Lundell).
• Hosted in-house GC grant-writing session to brainstorm future ideas with faculty and staff, sponsored by CRDEUL Director and the Faculty Advisors.
• Wrote and/or submitted 3 grant proposal drafts, including: pre-proposal to FIPSE (Building Bridges from Access to Success), proposal by Jeanne Higbee to CURA (Creating Access and Enhancing Retention in Public Postsecondary Education: Redefining Academic Preparedness), and the LARGEST funding request ever submitted from CRDEUL as a full proposal to the U.S. Department of Education (National Study of Efficacy of Developmental Education Course-Based Programs with Supplementary Studies). Outcomes of these activities were: FIPSE and CURA not funded, and pending decision on the Dept. of Ed. grant.
• Held regular grant meetings to discuss proposal drafts and ideas with Advisory Board grants subcommittee members, including Cristy de la Cruz, GC Grants Office.
• Held regular meetings with Faculty Advisors to develop grant ideas, generate leads for collaborations, and gather feedback.
• Followed up with national Advisory Board members for feedback on drafting grant proposals that support national and regional collaborations.
• Pursued all leads and inquiries related to grants development, providing informal consultations in CRDEUL to visitors, such as GC faculty and staff.

Communications
• Launched new CRDEUL listserve to streamline internal communications with all affiliates.
• Launched new bi-annual CRDEUL eNews (electronic newsletter) in spring 2003.
• Director and Program Associate worked with GC Communications Office to improve and update Web site, format and print publications, and design/edit CRDEUL eNews.
• Launched new online UMN bookstore Web ordering system for future publications (starting in May 2004 with MAP-IT as a trial).
• Ongoing public relations and communications activities, such as ongoing development of contacts database, mailings, responding to internal and external inquiries, and advertising.
• Documentation and evaluation of Center’s services and outreach activities through use of online Guest Book (visitor tracking system).
• Fostered ongoing collaborations with current and new affiliates through informal networking at conferences, in-house consultations, and correspondence (via CRDEUL listserve).

Publications and Dissemination
• Edited CRDEUL Monograph series including all phases—editing, writing, author and reviewer correspondence, formatting, printing, and distribution. Published *Multiculturalism in Developmental Education*, October 2003.
• Irene Duranczyk, CRDEUL Board Member, was added as a new Co-Editor of CRDEUL Monograph 5, *Best Practices for Access and Retention in Higher Education*. Submissions were received totaling 13. Publication is in press for fall 2004.
• Proposed and began work for GC book *Integrating Growth and Student Development: The General College Model* (Higbee, Lundell, and Arendale), receiving 24 drafted chapters.
• Utilized CRDEUL e-mail lists and relevant regional and national listserves (GC-ALL, MNADE, LRNSST) to disseminate information about all publications available and downloadable online (http://www.gen.umn.edu/research/crdeul).
• Distributed new monographs totaling 2500 copies at various conferences and events (MNADE, MMEP, NADE, CRLA), along with other information such as brochures and past publications.
• Distributed MAP-IT publications totaling 2500 copies at conferences and events.
• Distributed remaining CTAD books and guidebooks at conferences and events.
• Launched new mailing list system with UMN Addressing and Mailing to send publications to affiliates (Friends of the Center, Authors, and Reviewers).
• Organized in-house distribution of remaining monographs to special requests, authors, reviewers, and GC community.
• Several research presentations were made by the Director and/or Faculty Advisors at the following regional, national, and international conferences this year: Minnesota chapter of the National Association for Developmental Education, College Reading and Learning Association, National Association for Developmental Education, International Conference on
the First-Year Experience, Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, National College Learning Center Association, and American College Personnel Association.

- Director wrote regular news columns about CRDEUL activities for GC’s ACCESS, MNADE newsletter, NADE news, and CRDEUL eNews.
- Faculty Advisors contributed numerous columns, articles, chapters, keynote presentations.
- Director and Faculty Advisors authored/co-authored CRDEUL-related articles and research reports that were published this year or accepted for future publication, including items such as (for comprehensive list, see C.V.s for Higbee, Lundell, and Arendale):
  - Arendale, Higbee, & Lundell were invited by the series Editor to develop and submit a future chapter for the Jossey-Bass New Directions for Community Colleges, focusing on theory, research, and retention for DE programs (draft in progress).
  - Miksch, Bruch, Higbee, Jehangir, & Lundell, “The Centrality of Multiculturalism in Developmental Education: Piloting the Multicultural Awareness Project for Institutional Transformation (MAP-IT)” in Multiculturalism and Developmental Education.
  - Higbee, Miksch, Jehangir, Lundell, & Bruch, “Assessing Our Commitment to Providing a Multicultural Learning Experience” is in press for the Journal of College Reading and Learning.

B. Additional Highlights

Members of the CRDEUL team also enjoyed additional honors and took on extra projects that enhanced the work of the Center and General College, such as:

Program Director, Dana Britt Lundell
- 2004 President of Minnesota chapter of the National Association for Developmental Education (MNADE).
- Planning Committee, Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium, DE initiative.

Senior Faculty Advisor for Research, Jeanne Higbee
- Consultant, Board Member, Keynote Speaker, and Columnist for various national projects.
- Planning Committee, Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium, DE initiative.

Outreach Faculty Advisor, David Arendale
- Consultant, Board Member, and Keynote Speaker for various national projects.
• Panelist and Facilitator, Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium, DE initiative.

C. Budget

During its initial start-up and implementation phases from July 1996-July 2000, CRDEUL was funded by a grant from the University of Minnesota Graduate School, funding for Post-Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Initiatives programs (start-up budget of $10,000 for two years, implementation budget of $50,000 for two years, with additional support from General College).

From July 2000 to present, CRDEUL has been centrally funded by Dean Taylor, General College, to continue its work with an annual budget of approximately $200,000 for staff and programs. We continue to develop and submit grant proposals for research programs.

Additional Projects: In July 2003, Dean Taylor asked CRDEUL to run the two-year initiative of the Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium, including budget development and organizing events. This budget is separate from the CRDEUL annual budget. The work of the Future Directions Multicultural Initiative (FDMI – Higbee) also concluded in May 2004, which was also a separate budget from CRDEUL.

D. Evaluation of Outcomes

• Ongoing external evaluations of CRDEUL activities and outcomes included meetings with Terry Collins, Dan Detzner, Dean Taylor, GC Exec Committee, and the Advisory Board.
• Ongoing internal evaluations of CRDEUL activities included monthly Guest Book tracking of visitor activities and comments. There were approximately 249 visitors who were logged into this Guest Book (see attached Guest Book Activity Report). This was an increase from approximately 100 tracked visitors during the previous year’s start-up with the new Guest Book system. The average has increased from 16 to 21 visitors per month in the past academic year.
• The CRDEUL Web site received approximately 5250 distinct hits to the main home page during the 03-04 year. This averages to 437 per month. When totaling distinct hits to all pages of the Web site, the total is 20,334. Our publications, library, resource center, and research pages receive a majority of the hit counts to the site annually.
• Weekly staff and individual meetings also occurred to informally evaluate ongoing activities. CRDEUL also conducts periodic, internal (GC) surveys to gain feedback about our services.

E. Additional Activities

• An office move for summer 2004 is scheduled. Room 340 Appleby Hall is the new future location for CRDEUL (Director, Program Associate, and resource center). Room 346 is Higbee’s new location. NOTE: CRDEUL has been in 333 Appleby Hall since summer 2000. The new location will provide increased space for CRDEUL’s expanding projects and visitors, including a separate storage and workroom space.
• New Program Associate, Bob Copeland, was hired in June 2004, replacing Holly Pettman.
• Kwabena Siaka, GRA, was hired for the 04-05 Metropolitan Education initiative.
F. Future Planning

Future planning for 04-05 activities occurred during this academic year, such as:

• Move to new office space in summer 2004.
• Communications updates with new address and info (Web site, brochure, newsletter), with an emphasis on future tracking and analysis of the external outreach capabilities of the Web site via tracking and analyzing hit count reports.
• Forum Series topics to be selected for 04-05 year.
• Metropolitan Higher Education Conference planning for January 2005 (250 people).
• Library updates and visitor center expansion, in conjunction with move.
• Grants development, research, and dissemination ongoing (Director and Faculty Advs).
• Outreach planning and development (Arendale), with an emphasis on increasing this aspect.
• Monograph 5 publication (Best Practices for Access and Retention in Higher Education).
• GC Book will be in press May 2005.
• Call for Submissions, Monograph 6 (Student Standpoint on Access in Higher Education).
• Continued involvement with GC faculty and staff discussing future of DE.