

CENTER *for* SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Who We Are ►

The Center for School Improvement (CSI) at the University of Florida College of Education cultivates UF partnerships with Florida schools to provide “inquiry-based” professional development as a primary method of school improvement. Through the inquiry process, educators cooperatively assess their own teaching practices and share what they have learned to foster overall school improvement.

Mission ►

To support school improvement efforts, the Center serves as a forum to promote and share new research and knowledge about teaching and learning that is generated by practitioners in the field through the process of teacher research.

Impact ►

- ▶ Hundreds of Florida veteran teachers improve their classroom practice each year through the process of teacher research facilitated by the Center.
- ▶ Hundreds of prospective teachers engage in teacher inquiry during Center-supported field experiences as a hallmark of their teacher education program at the University of Florida.
- ▶ Teacher research produced by local prospective and practicing teachers is disseminated nationally through the Center by networking with other organizations advocating teacher inquiry, such as the Holmes Partnership and the Teachers Network Policy Institute.



Key Activities ►

Collaborative self-assessment

- ▶ Numerous workshops for practitioners across the state allow Florida teachers and school administrators to jointly evaluate their own teaching methods and share what they have learned about school improvement.

Inquiry showcase

- ▶ The Center’s annual Teaching, Inquiry and Innovation Showcase, at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School in Gainesville, brings together hundreds of practicing and prospective teachers throughout Florida to share what they have learned about school improvement through the process of teacher research.

Research-proven practices

- ▶ The CSI produces innovative research focused on school improvement and teacher inquiry.

Regional and national scope

- ▶ The Center partners with regional organizations such as the North East Florida Educational Consortium (www.nefec.com); national organizations such as the Holmes Partnership (www.holmespartnership.org), the Teacher Network Policy Institute (www.teachersnetwork.org); and other College of Education programs, such as the School of Teaching and Learning's Professional Development Communities (www.coe.ufl.edu/school/pdc) and the On-Line Teacher Leadership and School Improvement master's degree program (www.coe.ufl.edu/online/tlsi/faculty.html) to support school improvement through practitioner inquiry.



Minority educator leadership

- ▶ The Center administers the College of Education's membership in the National Holmes Partnership (www.holmespartnership.org), supporting the work of three Holmes Scholars at UF—all students of color—as they work toward advanced education degrees and careers in university leadership.

Charitable contributions to UF's Center for School Improvement will help us promote meaningful and powerful staff development for practicing teachers, ultimately resulting in improved educational practice and learning experiences for all students.

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