

Our Graduates' Impact on K-12 Student Learning New Educators at Wagner (NEW) Program

New Educators at Wagner (NEW) is a unique post-graduate teacher development program that fosters transformational learning among early career educators. Reflecting the conceptual framework and philosophy of the Wagner College education program, NEW provides a year-long, job-embedded professional development experience that culminates with the public presentation of action research projects that document participants' instructional transformation, and their impact on student learning.

Since 2008-09, NEW has served 65 graduate students, including 25 Wagner graduates and 40 graduates from other colleges.

Wagner's Education Department is beginning to collect, document, and analyze Wagner graduates' action research projects from NEW as a way to demonstrate our completers' abilities to impact student learning once they are in the classroom. We are also using them as a starting point as we think about other ways to demonstrate our completers' classroom impact.

One good example of an action research project is from a Wagner graduate in the 2010-2011 NEW cohort. This graduate had completed a Wagner undergraduate and graduate program at the time he entered NEW, and then received another graduate degree from Wagner in 2016.

Highlights of his project, "LIIFE: Lavelle Invaluable Informational Football Experience" can be accessed in this PowerPoint and are summarized here:

- LIIFE is a literacy-based approach to teaching the game of football, using a behavior management program during a skills-driven after-school program.
- LIIFE's hypothesis is that meaningful integration of sports and education will positively increase student performance, specifically increasing attendance and grade point average.
- 27 middle school students participated; two students were monitored closely for this project.
- The project provide staff quotes indicating growth in these two students as a result of the program, e.g. "the largest all around improvement this year has come from this student" and "as his love for learning grows with his appreciation for sports, he will be able to do whatever he wants."
- Both students' grade point averages improved substantially from December to March.
- Qualitative improvements in civility, leadership, decision making, and teamwork were found.

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