

Preface

In December 2014, Bradley University's College of Education and Health Sciences was awarded its final Kemper grant of \$54,000, payable over a period of two calendar years. At the time the grant was awarded, the William T. Kemper Foundation-Commerce Bank, Trustee let us know that after generously funding Bradley's Kemper Professional Development Schools (PDS) Project for 22 years, the 2015-2016 award would be our last. Soon, the Bradley PDS Council began reflecting on the many people who had contributed to the project, the numerous initiatives that had arisen from the project, and the countless students who had been served through the project over the years. Our memories were sharpened when we decided to sort through two decades of paper-based Kemper documents that had been rather haphazardly filed various places in Westlake Hall since 1995.

Between December 2015 and February 2016, I took primary responsibility for looking at each artifact and piece of paper that had been filed away over the years. I started by sorting it all into piles by academic year. Stack by stack, I sorted again to identify key Kemper archives. In the process, I discarded duplicates and set aside documents that did not provide information directly relevant to the Kemper PDS Project history. The documents that remained were fascinating. As I read each piece of paper, I was struck by the forward-thinking vision of a comprehensive university-school-community partnership that Dr. Joan L. Sattler and others in the College articulated when they wrote the first Kemper grant in 1995, the comprehensive integrated services model designed by several College faculty in the early 2000s, and the expansion from four to eight Bradley PDS sites in 2012. As I worked through each stack, I was humbled by the enthusiasm and innovation with which each Kemper Fellow, Bradley PDS site coordinator, and many others helped to make Dr. Sattler's vision a reality through many different approaches for over 20 years.

As I placed each historical document inside a plastic page protector and organized everything chronologically into nine large, three-ring binders, the idea of collaboratively writing a Kemper PDS Project history began to develop. I reasoned that, similar to filing everything away in file cabinets for 20 years, few people, if any, would actually take time to look through the newly-organized Kemper archives, even if invited to do so. But what if we used the Kemper archives to write historical summaries of the key people, events, and projects that occurred as a result of the Kemper PDS Project? What if we wrote a historical summary for each academic year of the project? What if we asked someone who actually had been there to write each chapter, and supplemented each chapter with scanned copies of historical documents, photographs, and quotations from various Bradley PDS stakeholders?

Bradley University's Kemper Professional Development Schools (PDS) Project: 1995-2016

The Bradley PDS Council decided to go for it, and the Kemper History Project was launched in March 2016. Soon, every person who had served as Kemper Fellow over the years had agreed to write at least one chapter. Additional chapter authors included former and current Bradley PDS site coordinators and former and current members of the Kemper/Bradley PDS Council. In addition to 15 different chapter authors, who completed their work during spring and summer 2016, an editorial team of five people revised and edited the chapters for consistency during fall 2016, and eight others proofread the final, formatted chapters for accuracy in December 2016 and January 2017.

The final product of our collaborative efforts is presented in the pages that follow. On behalf of the 2016-2017 Bradley PDS Council, Bradley's College of Education and Health Sciences, and everyone else who contributed to the Kemper History Project, we hope you enjoy reading *Bradley University's Kemper Professional Development Schools (PDS) Project: 1995-2016*.

Dr. Jana Hunzicker
Kemper Fellow
2012-2016