

Education captured

Education department looks to students for help showcasing department's core values.

By SHANNON SNODGRASS
Staff Writer

For the next two weeks, the education department is asking its students and faculty to participate in a photo contest to explain what the education department means to them.

Selected photos from the contest will appear on the department's Web site and will explain the education department's values and principles during the next accreditation visit, set to take place the week of April 20.

"We're very proud of the fact that Otterbein's teacher education programs are founded on a set of beliefs or principles," education professor Karen Robinson said.

"We thought it would be great for the education students to illustrate those beliefs with photographs, and to write about them in terms of what these beliefs mean to them. How great for a visiting team to see our students knowledgeable and conversant about the beliefs that have built our programs," she added.

"I enjoy using photography in my teaching, and I love contests," Robinson said. "Plus, we thought we would get some great new decorating ideas for the education department."

This contest is a first for the department, which has been looking for a way to reach out to current students in the program.

Senior Lindsey Downey saw the contest as an opportunity to share her experiences and relay to others the importance of what she has learned from the department.

"I wanted to enter the education department photo contest to show other people the power of knowledge, the beauty of learning through the eyes of a child and to reflect on what I've learned during my time at Otterbein," Downey said.

Contestants must demonstrate the education department's eight-part belief system in their photo. Some of the beliefs are: the power of knowledge, the potential of all children and the richness of diversity.

A jury of faculty and staff across campus will decide on

the prize-winning image that will be used in the Web site.

"Each of those beliefs conveys what we as educators value about learning and teaching," Robinson said.

"I wanted to show other people the power of knowledge.

- Lindsey Downey
*senior
education*

Academic departmental assistant Claire Parson believes that the photos will serve as a positive reinforcement and a tool for future students looking to join the education department.

"I find it's nice that other students can come in the department and even prospective students and see something

visual that says who we are and what we're doing," Parson said.

Downey agrees. "When I looked through my pictures, it was inspiring to truly look at the expressions on the face of each child," said Downey. "I saw that the child was learning, exploring and finding ways that worked for them."

As of now, 15 students have submitted photos for the contest. The deadline for entries was moved from March 13 to March 20 in order to receive more entries. The winner will be announced April 10.

The department may consider making this contest an annual part of the program. Robinson said, "You just never know what will happen next. We have high hopes for the success of this, and if we're right, we just may do it again."

Education students and staff interested in participating in the contest should send their photos, belief statements and photo captions to Claire Parson at cparson@otterbein.edu.

Those interested in participating in the jury should also contact Parson.

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