

I am the Solution: *School Counselors as Leaders*

Graduate students from Wilmington University's Counselor as a Consultant Course are not waiting until becoming school counselors to implement the American School Counselor Model in their practice—they are doing it now. Labeled the first cross-district counseling team in Delaware. These students are showing how school counselors from different districts can collaborate on various initiatives to ensure student achievement.

During March of 2020's (2 weeks before the pandemic of Covid-19) Spring 1 block, students created innovative solutions for closing specific achievement gaps that plague our schools.

- Reducing the Dropout Rate- *Grace*
- Social and Emotion Learning-Trauma - *Arisa*
- Raising Student Achievement on Smarter Balance - *Kelsey*
- School to Prison Pipeline - *Shana*
- Self-care - Student Personal Hygiene - *Katrina*
- First Generation College Students-Understanding FAFSA - *Darlene*
- Motivating Girls in STEM - *Angela*

Throughout the course and during the final presentation, students demonstrated collaboration and teamwork by supporting each other's solutions and sharing resources to enhance their classmates' solutions.

For the final class presentation, the students invited the Rodel Foundation to evaluate each solution and provide feedback. Students also donated clothes and hygiene items to support 2 of their classmates' solutions.

“Thank you again for the opportunity to watch your students' presentations and meet your class. I really enjoyed seeing their passion for education and creativity in figuring out real solutions that they could introduce in their schools. As someone who works directly with the data involved in Delaware Public Education at a Glance, it is great to see educators utilizing it as the resource that it is.

I really enjoyed seeing the class present solutions to problems that they were seeing in their own schools and supported by data. Instead of admiring problems, the students came up with solutions that were practical and applicable to their direct work. The Rodel Foundation

Thank you again for the opportunity to connect with your class! If any of your students are interested in joining our teacher listserv, please feel free to have them contact me so that I can direct them to other education-related activities as they come up.”

Comment for Spring 1 Feb 2020 Class

- Please use the space provided to reflect on the things this instructor did well to help support your learning needs in this class.

- Was very approachable.
- Professional Washington is an amazing professor. I hope that he's teaching something else. He was not only resourceful he was capable of providing us with information to help us in our everyday experiences as counselors. I believe this is the first professor that I have ever had that has gone above and beyond the call of duty. I personally think that it would be in every students' best interest if all the other professors with in this program would take the time to build onto professor Washington's final project in order to create a curriculum for that counselor by the time they graduate.
- Professor Washington gave insight, tools and the resources that I will be able to use when I walk into an interview for a school counselor. He helped give suggestions and ideas whenever I struggled with an assignment or a project, something an excellent teacher/counselor does. I am confident that I will be a great school counselor given the knowledge that I've learned from this class!
- Professor Washington was amazing.. He answers emails after hours, he's very supportive, very knowledgeable. I have to say by far my favorite professor at WilmU!!! I wish he taught more classes. This class was so engaging. I felt that I leaned more in this class then any other so far!!

- Please use the space provided to reflect on the improvements this instructor could make to enhance the effectiveness of their teaching.

- I don't think there was anything different Professor Washington could have done to enhance the effectiveness of his teaching.
- Keep doing you!! Amazing professor!

Professor Washington,

Hope all is well! By far you have been one of the most influential people in my life! I appreciate your patience, time and effort with us. I know a few nights weren't easy but you literally went with the flow and feel of the class and moved forward there, kind of like "subject to change" on a program. Thank you for reminding me to believe in myself and that I have what I need and what it takes inside of me, but I must stir up the gift that God put in there! After praying, attending youth retreats and somehow connecting with my mentor, this journey of wanting to know myself and what my purpose is became stronger. My mentor bought me a book titled, "Discover your CliftonStrengths" and after completing the assessment (similar to a personality test but more in depth) I've learned so much

about myself and also jobs I would be good in. Teaching and counseling are two of them I remember. I don't know exactly where this will lead me but I believe I am headed in the right direction. I don't believe God brought me this far to leave me. Thank you for being resourceful, again for believing in me and thank you for allowing him to use you the way he is to inspire, encourage and teach future leaders! You rock Professor Washington! I will keep in contact. Peace and blessings, Darlene