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FRED ROGERS CENTER LAUNCHES CURRICULUM TOOLKIT
New Website Features Instructional Resources for Higher Education Faculty

LATROBE, PA –The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College has announced the launch of the online Curriculum Toolkit as a new resource for college and university faculty that combines video footage from the Fred Rogers Archive with a variety of multimedia course materials. The Curriculum Toolkit, a joint project of the Fred Rogers Center and Saint Vincent College faculty, can be found at www.fredrogerscenter.org/resources/toolkit.

The Curriculum Toolkit contains syllabi, assignments, in-class activities, research, and video clips on a range of topics in early childhood development, children’s media, and children’s studies. Featured among the resources are dozens of video clips from the *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* program as well as video and print transcripts from the Fred Rogers Oral History project of the Rogers Center. The clips are organized thematically so that faculty can use them for in-class instruction, assignments, or their own research.

The initial set of Curriculum Toolkit syllabi, collected from college and university faculty nationally, covers language development, creativity, music, and the role of play, among other relevant topics. The Curriculum Toolkit also provides a number of assignment ideas that include everything from puppet construction to assessing emotional development in children. A reference area includes research abstracts and links to other research in the field.

Three Saint Vincent College faculty are the developers of the Curriculum Toolkit. They are Sara Lindey, Ph.D., assistant professor of English; Christopher Oldenburg, Ph.D., associate professor of Psychology; and Brett Robinson, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication.

Rita Catalano, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center, commented, "We see the Curriculum Toolkit as an important project for helping to make linkages among the many disciplines -- and the many faculty and researchers -- representing the fields related to Fred Rogers' own research-based work in early learning and children's media. For the Fred Rogers Center, the Curriculum Toolkit also provides a very meaningful outlet for mining the video and other materials of the Fred Rogers Archive. We look forward to continued work with Saint Vincent faculty to expand the resources and the community of educators supported by the Toolkit."

Faculty using the Curriculum Toolkit are invited to submit their own course materials and to leave comments on current materials. The goal is to create a community of higher education faculty representing a variety of disciplines and curriculum topics.

The Curriculum Toolkit has been developed under a Congressionally-directed grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant, totaling \$95,000 for the entire project cost, supported development activities over the two years from September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2011.

The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College (www.fredrogerscenter.org) was established in 2003. The Center houses the official archive of Fred Rogers' work including scripts, videos, and artifacts from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. The Center's national programs include the Early Career Fellows; the Fred Rogers Center Early Learning Environment™ under development as a web-based resource for teachers, home-based caregivers, and families; and the *Fred Forward Conference Series* and issues roundtables.

Photo: *Rita Catalano, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center, second from right, with three Saint Vincent College faculty who are the developers of the Curriculum Toolkit, from left, Christopher Oldenburg, Ph.D., associate professor of Psychology; Sara Lindey, Ph.D., assistant professor of English; and Brett Robinson, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication.*

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