Excellence in Collaborative and Experiential Learning (ExCEL)

The ExCEL (Excellence In Collaborative and Experiential Learning) Program is a collaborative partnership between the College of Education and Stillwater Public Schools. Open to elementary education majors in their final semester before student teaching (Semester Y), the program features a three-day a week full day internship in a public school classroom in which teacher candidates are partnered with expert classroom teachers. Candidates return to the OSU campus one day a week for Semester Y methods classes.

The ExCEL program is run by a team of OSU College of Education faculty members working together to mentor students in their placements at the elementary school and also teaching the ExCEL sections of methods classes, closely connecting course content with field experiences. The ExCEL faculty team for 2010-2011 includes:

- Dr. Sue Christian Parsons, Director & Literacy Education
- Dr. Toni Ivey, Science Education
- Dr. Juliana Utley, Mathematics Education
- Ms. Abena Annan, Graduate Teaching Assistant & Literacy Education
- Ms. Cathy Burnett, Social Studies Education
- Ms. Marla Ruark, Classroom Management

The ExCEL program runs both fall and spring semesters, partnering with Westwood Elementary in the fall and Will Rogers Elementary in the spring. Both schools are close to the OSU campus and each offers a richly diverse student population and talented, enthusiastic faculty and leadership.

ExCEL program participants gain experience in almost every aspect of elementary school teaching and develop productive relationships with a variety of educational professionals. Many ExCEL students choose to stay in their placement classroom for student teaching so that they receive a full year of supported internship before starting their first job.

Elementary Education majors interested in participating in ExCEL may apply for the program during Semester X. A program representative will speak in classes about the program each semester, and invitations to apply will be posted around the college. Candidates interested in finding out more about the program may contact Dr. Parsons at sue.parsons@okstate.edu.