

## Robert C. Pianta



Robert Pianta is the Dean of the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia.

The Novartis Professor of Education and director of UVa's Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning, Pianta and his team of education researchers have proven what it takes to build better teachers. With more than \$50 million in grant funding, his team has developed a proven-effective system to both assess a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom and to improve that teacher's effectiveness with specific supports and mentoring.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ or CLASS™ is an observational measure that has been tested and proven effective in several large national studies and is being utilized by every Head Start program in the country, touching 50,000 teachers and over a half a million students. The supports engineered to target and improve a teachers' effectiveness in the classroom are administered through the MyTeachingPartner™ system.

Pianta's work in teacher and classroom quality is nationally recognized.

Washington Post education columnist Jay Mathews calls Bob Pianta "one of America's smartest educational scholars, with a long history of observing kids and teachers in classrooms." The Post editorial page, on two occasions, noted the use of Bob's work as a primary source of optimism about the future of Head Start.

Pianta was featured in Malcolm Gladwell's New Yorker article, "Most Likely To Succeed." The article explores what it takes to identify and develop successful teachers.

In the fall of 2008, Pianta was asked to provide recommendations for public education to the Obama Presidential Transition Team. In his recommendations he writes, "Good teachers are key. If we want to improve our students' learning, we need to improve the quality of teachers and of teaching."

Dr. Pianta received a B.S. and a M.A. in Special Education from the University of Connecticut, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Minnesota, and began his career as a special education teacher. He originally joined the Curry faculty in 1986 and began his appointment as dean in 2007.

Pianta, an avid runner and Yankees fan, and his wife, Ann McAndrew, currently live on the Lawn at UVa and enjoy being in the center of the University community. They have three children: Meghan is a UVa graduate currently living in New York City working for MSNBC, Tony is a Virginia Tech graduate and works at a small computer company in Washington DC, and Tim is a student in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at UVa.

### **Introduction for Dean Robert Pianta**

Below you will find a sample of an introduction to be used for Dean Pianta.

Bob Pianta is the Dean of the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia, the Novartis Professor of Education, Professor of Psychology, and the director of UVa's Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning. Dean Pianta and his education research team have proven what it takes to build better teachers. With more than \$50 million in grant funding, his team has developed a system to both assess and improve a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System or CLASS is an observational measure that has been tested and proven effective in several large national studies and is being utilized by every Head Start program in the country, touching 50,000 teachers and over a half million students.

Having earned a B.S. and an M.A. in Special Education from the University of Connecticut and a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Minnesota, Bob began his career as a special education teacher. He joined the Curry faculty in 1986 and began his appointment as dean in 2007.

Bob's work has been nationally recognized by Andrea Mitchell of NBC Nightly News, Jay Mathews of the Washington Post, and best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell, and he was asked to provide recommendations public education to the Obama Presidential Transition Team. In his recommendations he wrote, "Good teachers are key. If we want to improve our students' learning, we need to improve the quality of teachers and of teaching."