Welcome

The days are gradually getting longer and slightly warmer and I am growing restless with the need to shed not only heavy sweaters but also the weariness of too many late nights cramming in more than I can possibly achieve. I am sure that there are so many who can relate to that feeling. We are beginning to hopefully see the proverbially light at the end of the tunnel as we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am choosing to be optimistic, as spring approaches and as our community moves forward to make meaningful contributions to one another.

As the days grow brighter I am encouraged yet again by what can be. The Cato College of Education welcomed our new dean in January. Welcome, Dr. Malcolm Butler! In classes, I find it uplifting to hear students make impassioned presentations about complex issues in higher education and visions for positive change. I smirk good-naturedly when they chide one another as only fellow students can. I smile when a student completes their dissertation proposal, and I sigh with relief when they defend their dissertation because it is an amazing accomplishment and the uncertainty of the process is over. These are the leaders of now. They will persist!

Enjoy a Spring Break of rejuvenation!

Cathy Howell, Ed.D.
Ed.D. Graduate Program Director
Faculty Spotlight
Dr. Jillian La Serna

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?
I finished my doctoral work at UNC Chapel Hill. I was a principal during my doctoral program and for about two years after that. I was always really interested in research and UNC Charlotte was looking for an assistant professor. One of the things that drew me to Charlotte was that all of the professors had school leadership experience. I really valued the folks with experience teaching courses.

Thinking about the principalship, supervision, and instruction ... that’s not something I had seen across other programs. I appreciated that value. Now that I am here, I think a lot of our students appreciate that as well.

What are your favorite parts about working in Educational Leadership?
Having the different programs is really great. There are so many fields within educational leadership. That’s really exciting and provides opportunities for collaboration. It’s a very supportive department in that way.

I also love the students. I’m reminded why I went into teaching when I made that decision at 19. I love teaching. In administrative roles we taught some, but this is different. It quickly reminded me my love of being a teacher. That decision was affirmed for me again. This is my passion.

What research projects are you working on?
My initial research stemmed from my dissertation on culturally relevant pedagogy in dual language classrooms. I further explored instructional strategies and practices in dual language classrooms. I’m also working on collaborations with colleagues which is exciting. We’re looking at how leaders go into the profession and how they develop critical consciousness. There is a call to increase and foster critical consciousness in students and staff. That’s my upcoming research. I was fortunate to get a grant for that project.

Hometown
Sacramento, California

Previous Institutions
UNC Chapel Hill
Sacramento State

Research Interests
Dual Language Classrooms & Critical Consciousness

Other Interests
Movies, Traveling, Camping, and Soccer (Peru and PSG!)

Fun Fact
Married High School Sweetheart & Has 2 Kids
Student Spotlight
Katrina Green

What made you interested in educational leadership?

I was the program manager for leadership development, which exposed me to a lot of professional development opportunities for leadership. While I was usually organizing and facilitating, I loved being able to listen in to all the courses and training. I have an amazing leader (who is also Ed.D.) that I work for and have many leaders in my organization that inspire me to continue to grow and develop. With my love for nursing education and leadership development it just seemed like the perfect path for me!

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?

I was looking for a program that would help me develop in my role and prepare me for future opportunities. I was looking at various programs and discovered a new concentration at UNC Charlotte for Learning, Design, and Technology. I was very interested in the program, and when I reached out to Dr. Martin, she was so welcoming and encouraging I just knew it was the right place to be. I have been so impressed with the professors I have been able to work with, but maybe more so the students. I have learned so much just by having conversations with various classmates and it has been so worth the experience.

What is your research focus?

My research focus is on using blended learning for nurse preceptor development. We are in a great place right now with the pandemic restrictions to really take a look and determine if blended learning can provide better training for our nurse preceptors. I can see the work that I am doing for this program easily being applied to some of our other programs that are struggling right now.
Dissertation Defense

The dissertation defense is the final milestone toward degree completion!

Shannon Clemons
Ed.D. P-12 Superintendency

Dr. Rebecca Shore, Chair
Dr. Claudia Flowers, Member
Dr. Xiaoxia Newton, Member
Dr. Chance Lewis, Grad. Rep.

North Carolina high school alternative school administrators’ perceptions of school performance measures
Dissertation Proposals

The dissertation proposal defense is the second major milestone toward degree completion. Proposals are generally comprised of chapters 1-3 of the dissertation: introduction, literature review, and methodology. Successful completion of all coursework, the qualifying portfolio, and the proposal defense acknowledges students as doctoral candidates prepared to complete their dissertation research.

Sayde Brais
Ed.D. Higher Education
Dr. Ryan Miller, Chair
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Member
Dr. Cathy Howell, Member
Dr. Jason Black, Grad. Rep.

Rick Dunlap
Ed.D. P-12 Superintendency
Dr. Walter Hart, Chair
Dr. Rich Lambert, Member
Dr. Rebecca Shore, Member
Dr. Hank Harris, Grad. Rep.

Shawn Knight
Ed.D. Higher Education
Dr. Ryan Miller, Chair
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Member
Dr. James Morello, Member
Dr. Michael Putman, Grad. Rep.

Susann Nash
Ed.D. P-12 Superintendency
Dr. Rebecca Shore, Chair
Dr. Walter Hart, Member
Dr. Jamie Kudlats, Member
Dr. Jeanneine Jones, Grad. Rep.
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Lizzie Parsons
Ed.D. P-12 Superintendency
Dr. Rebecca Shore, Chair
Dr. Rich Lambert, Member
Dr. Jamie Kudlats, Member
Dr. Amy Good, Grad. Rep.

Lauren Slane
Ed.D. Higher Education
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Chair
Dr. Ryan Miller, Member
Dr. Carmen Serrata, Member
Dr. Dr. Sejal Foxx, Grad. Rep.

Kudos Corner

A space to celebrate exciting news beyond the doctoral program!

Dr. Christine Davis
Awarded the Melvene D. Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award by NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

Dr. Davis, a 2020 graduate, is the first student in the program’s history to win this award!

Conference Presenters & Attendees
Congratulations to all of our students and faculty presenting sessions and research during the busy spring conference season!
Educational Student Leadership Organization

Mission
The ELSO serves to satisfy the needs of COED graduate students by providing a voice to the COED administration and faculty, as well as the general public. The mission of the ELSO is to encourage professional development and improve the experience of the COED students through initiatives that enrich the intellectual, social, and cultural aspects of their lives. In so doing, we hope to develop a stronger community among students interested in the Department of Educational Leadership and excellence within the COED.

Get Involved!
https://ninerengage.uncc.edu/organization/elseo

Executive Board
Bryndle Bottoms - President
Kristin Villanueva - Vice President
Scott Holcomb - Treasurer
Tong Wu - Events Chair
Upcoming Dates

March 6-9
March 7
March 7-12
March 17-19
March 19-23
March 21
March 25
March 31-April 1
April 4
April 11
April 11-14
April 15-16
April 21-26
April 25
May 1
May 3
May 4
May 9
May 13-14

ACPA Conference
American College Personnel Association
Fall 2022 Classes Available Online
Spring Break
AAC&U Conference
American Association of Colleges and Universities
NASPA Conference
Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
Withdrawal Deadline
Graduate Research Symposium
NCASA Conference
North Carolina Association of School Administrators
Registration for Summer and Fall Begins
Dissertation Defense Deadline
UPCEA Conference
University Professional & Continuing Education
Refresh Weekend - No Classes
AERA Conference
American Educational Research Association
Dissertation Submission Deadline
Master's Thesis Defense Deadline
Last Day of Classes
Reading Day
Master's Thesis Submission Deadline
Commencement
Questions?
Ideas for a future newsletter?
Something to celebrate?
Let us know!
edld-edd@uncc.edu

© Department of Educational Leadership
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