Welcome

We are more than half-way through the fall semester and I hope that everyone is enjoying classes while we learn to co-exist with COVID-19. This semester the University campus increased the student body presence due to our return to “normal” operations. I have heard from several students that they appreciate the ability to physically see one another and be back in the classroom. This does not negate the incredibly hard work that faculty, staff, and students put into making sure that our fully online classes were positive learning experiences.

We are not through with COVID-19 and who knows, when or if, there will be such a time. We all have and will continue to learn much about fully online education and the disparities that exists in technology, but there are also positives gained such as the broader reach of educational opportunities. I encourage everyone to consider the lessons that you are learning while obtaining an education and living in a pandemic.

Cathy Howell, Ed.D.
Ed.D. Graduate Program Director
A Message from the Chair

Look Around and Make Some Guesses

Have you ever looked around your classes and wondered what some of your classmates will be doing in a few years? Educational Leadership offers a lot of programs but have you ever stretched your mind to think about what all your colleagues are preparing for? Based on what previous students in Educational Leadership have done we can inform your wondering a bit.

Some will be a principal of a high school, a middle school, or an elementary school and some will win Principal of the Year in their district, region, and in the state. Others will be associate superintendents in a school district or the superintendent of a district winning a regional or state Superintendent of the Year Award. Some will end up being faculty members teaching in MSA or School District Leadership programs. Other will hold management positions in district offices or schools.

Some will be faculty members teaching and conducting research in college and university higher education departments. Others will hold major administrative roles in colleges and universities such as dean of students, director of advising, director of international programs, director of housing, director of student media, director of retention and persistence, or special assistant to the provost. Others will hold dean, director or VP positions at community colleges for students, advising, assessment, continuing education, or partnerships.

Some will be faculty members in educational research departments or leaders of institutional research in schools and universities. Others will work in research-focused think tanks. Still others will be instructional designers in schools, universities, and industry. Some will be faculty members focused on technology and online education.

We can all be surprised by the breadth of educational opportunities that await you and your colleagues in Educational Leadership. Focus in on some of your classmates, run through this list, and try to guess what awaits your classmates, and you.

Alan R. Mabe, Ph.D.
Interim Chair, Department of Educational Leadership
Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Kyle Cox

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?

A little bit of luck! It was kind of a leap. I grew up north of Cincinnati, Ohio. I completed undergrad and graduate work all around Cincinnati. I had been there forever. I met my wife and started a family there.

Then I start this path looking for positions. I knew I wanted to work at an urban research institution. I liked that kind of university after doing my graduate work at the University of Cincinnati. My research is in quantitative methods with a lot of design work. I knew Charlotte was looking for someone with that combination of design and analysis. It was location and fit.

What are your favorite parts about working in Educational Leadership?

The idea that you have a group that works together. That culture and atmosphere is big. I really like being able to do the research I’m interested in. I can do methodological research and can help with applied research in the department and college as a whole. The courses I teach have a nice mix of master’s and doctoral students. You get interesting dynamics in both. Being able to advise and mentor students when you’re in a graduate program ... those are the best student-faculty relationships because you really work with those individuals.

What research projects are you working on?

My specific research is largely in quant methods work. How to better plan educational experiments. I’m working with partially nested data and better planning studies that deal with that. I also have some work on the estimation of equation models I’m collaborating with an Ed. Leadership and Pre-K group, doing work around principals’ influence with teachers. It’s really good.
Student Spotlight
Courtney Stallman

What made you interested in educational leadership?

I have had some really great leaders in my life as a teacher and I have had leaders who are not so great in my life. I am inspired by those leaders who have been great but also motivated by those who haven't been awesome. I strive for transparency, honesty, and accountability. Those values are so important when working with people's children, especially when making sure everyone has access. Right now I work as a District Elementary Literacy Specialist in North Carolina. I want to be supportive of my teachers, students, and families. That's really the driving force behind me going back to school and trying to get as much education as I can.

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?

I am originally from Hampton, New Jersey but decided to come to North Carolina for college and I've never left. I started off as a political science major. Then a biology major. I ended up changing my major to education once I became a lunch buddy and started tutoring my junior year. It was a mad dash, but such an awarding experience working with kids. Now I am a third year Ed. D. student in the Educational Leadership program in the Superintendent concentration.

What is your research focus?

I have always been interested in what make leaders tick. What is it about them that makes them successful? I started thinking about the fact that there are not many women superintendents and the percentage of Latina women in superintendency is so small. There are no Latina superintendents in North Carolina right now, and I want to determine why. I am also really curious to know how ethnicity affects the trajectory of leaders who are Latina.
Successes & Celebrations

Qualifying Portfolios - Higher Education

Representing the first major milestone in the doctoral program, passing the new qualifying portfolio showcases students' knowledge and application of coursework from the initial portion of their program.

Sayde Brais
Dr. Ryan Miller, Chair
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Member

Lisa M. Gaskin
Dr. Alan Mabe, Chair
Dr. Cathy Howell, Member

Hali Hutchison-Houk
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Chair
Dr. Ryan Miller, Member

Shawn Knight
Dr. Ryan Miller, Chair
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Member
Successes & Celebrations
Qualifying Portfolios - Higher Education

Representing the first major milestone in the doctoral program, passing the new qualifying portfolio showcases students' knowledge and application of coursework from the initial portion of their program.

Morgan Murray
Dr. Ryan Miller, Chair
Dr. Cathy Howell, Member

Lauren Slane
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Chair
Dr. Ryan Miller, Member

Cynthia Stone
Dr. Lisa Merriweather, Chair
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Member

Alex Tompkins
Dr. Ryan Miller, Chair
Dr. Mark D’Amico, Member
Successes & Celebrations

Qualifying Portfolios - Learning, Design, and Technology
Representing the first major milestone in the doctoral program, passing the new qualifying portfolio showcases students' knowledge and application of coursework from the initial portion of their program.

Katrina Green
Dr. Ayesha Sadaf, Chair
Dr. Florence Martin, Member
Dr. Cathy Howell, Member

Liane She
Dr. Florence Martin, Chair
Dr. Ayesha Sadaf, Member
Dr. Cathy Howell, Member

Heather Ramsey
Dr. Beth Oyarzun, Chair
Dr. Ayesha Sadaf, Member
Dr. Drew Polly, Member

Kudos Corner
A space to celebrate exciting news beyond the doctoral program!

Krista Collins
Promoted to the Director of Learning and Organizational Development at UNC Charlotte

Jordan Holliday-Millard
Accepted new role as Director of Enrollment Communications at UNC Charlotte

Michelle Mason
Promoted to Senior Director at University of Washington Center for Educational Leadership
Graduate Assistant Introductions

**Bryndle Bottoms**
Returning GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

**Taniqua Canzater**
New GA
Ed.D. Higher Education

**Jacob Frankovich**
New GA
Ed.D. Higher Education

**Leonardo Herrera Mosquera**
New GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

**Scott Holcomb**
Returning GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

**Deborah Holmes**
Returning GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

**Julia Hujar**
Returning GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

**Marah Lambert**
New GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

**Zhi Li**
Returning GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

**Hannah Luce**
Returning GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

**Yi Wang**
Returning GA
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation
Upcoming Dates

**November 1**  
Registration for Spring 2022 Begins

**November 15**  
Dissertation Defense Deadline

**November 20**  
NCARE Submission Deadline

**November 22**  
Dissertation Submission Deadline

**November 24-27**  
November Break

**December 8**  
Final Day of Classes

**December 9**  
Reading Day

**December 10-16**  
Final Examinations

**December 13**  
Master’s Thesis Defense Deadline

**December 16**  
Master’s Thesis Submission Deadline

**December 17**  
Summer 2022 Classes Available

**December 17-18**  
Commencement

**December 20**  
Final Grades Due

**December 24-31**  
Winter Break
Questions?
Ideas for a future newsletter?
Something to celebrate?
Let us know!
edld-edd@uncc.edu