



the ED LEDGER

the newsletter of the
Department of Educational Leadership
at UNC Charlotte

Welcome

I hope that everyone enjoyed a restorative fall break that provided needed time away from the pressures of academics and deadlines. We are in the last half of the semester when deadlines are piling up and time is limited. Now is the time to lean into time management skills so that tasks can be completed in an efficient manner. Try to minimize procrastination and negative self-talk and focus on your strengths. Setting achievable and realistic goals will go a long way in remaining productive in the last few weeks of the semester. Hang in there and keep persisting!

Cathy Howell, Ed.D.
Ed.D. Graduate Program Director
M.Ed. Higher Education Director

inside the October 2023 Edition issue

- page 1 - Welcome
- page 2 - Faculty Spotlight
- page 3 - 4 Student Spotlights
- page 5 - Dissertation Defenses
- page 6 - Dissertation Proposals
and Student Worker
Introduction
- page 7 - Dissertation Portfolios
- page 8 - Kudos Corner
- page 9 - LEDGER Did You Know?
- page 10 - Ed Leadership in the
News
- page 11 - Conferences
- page 12 - Read It and Lead
- page 13 - ELSO
- page 14 - Fall 2023 in Pictures
- page 15 - Upcoming Dates
- page 16

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Beth Oyarzun

Empowering Excellence in Online Education

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?

I came to UNC Charlotte from UNC Wilmington in 2017, moving from a staff position as an instructional designer to a faculty position. I chose UNC Charlotte because I like the recent revisions to the Learning, Design and Technology (LDT) program. The updates modernized and diversified the program so graduates could fit into multiple contexts. ***The field is versatile, and positions can exist wherever learning and teaching occur.*** Additionally, Charlotte is closer to my hometown of Asheboro and this move brought me closer to my aging parents.

What is your favorite part about working in Educational Leadership?

My favorite part of working in the LDT program is getting a front-row seat to watch students achieve their goals and be successful upon graduation. I love getting the emails when they land their dream jobs.

What research projects are you working on?

I am currently working on a research study with Dr. Ryan Miller and Dr. Cathy Howell regarding ***Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA)*** strategies in online teaching and learning. I also recently published a systemic review on collaborative online learning.

What advice would you give students pursuing a career in Educational Leadership?

Find your niche interest in this broad field. Use your coursework and projects to ***focus in on that niche***, so you have a focused portfolio and are ready to apply for jobs.



Hometown
Asheboro, NC

Current
Research

IDEA

Fun Fact

I am an avid scuba diver alongside my husband. I love underwater photography and I am learning to figure skate to join my daughter, who is a competitive figure skater!

Student Spotlights



Ryan Chester *Leading by Example*

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?

I originally arrived at UNC Charlotte for work. I served as an Assistant Director for Graduate Student Services for the Belk College of Business from 2018 - 2023. I had the pleasure of working with students who were interested in learning more about graduate programs we offered at UNC Charlotte and helped them navigate the next steps in their academic journey. During my time in that office I decided to **take the next step** in my own academic journey and applied for the Educational Leadership program.

What advice would you give to students?

Begin developing your research interest and/or dissertation topic. This will allow you to identify literature and pertinent authors within your area of interest. **Connect with your fellow classmates and support each other throughout this journey.** Remember, it is a process and it will be key to have others also going through the process along the way.

Current Research Focus

The purpose of my study is to explore the lived experiences of Black men and women, NCAA Division II basketball players regarding their athletic identity and career development experiences. **The goal of the study is to identify better ways for institutions to equip this population with the support, guidance, and the skill set they will need** for their inevitable retirement from their athletic playing careers.

Hometown

Columbus, GA

Previous Institutions

Columbus State University -
Master of Public
Administration 12' &
Bachelor of Business
Administration 10'

Dissertation Topic

Athletic Identity and the
Career Development
Experiences of Division II
Black Student Athlete
Basketball Players

Student Spotlights



Curtis Kularski

Lifelong Learner

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?

I've always been here. As an undergraduate, I was drawn to UNC Charlotte because it was a nearby university with academic programs that I was interested in. Later, when I was seeking a place for graduate study, I was drawn back to UNC Charlotte because my best friend was finishing his undergraduate degree here. During my Masters degree, I became employed by UNC Charlotte, so it was a convenient choice to remain. When selecting a doctoral program I felt like it was a fit for me. ***I found the educational leadership department to be welcoming and I found a place where I could academically be myself.***

What advice would you give to students?

My advice for new doctoral students would be: keep going! ***Doctoral study is not always easy and it involves a lot of independent work and scholarship, it can be challenging at times, but in the end, it is worth it, so no matter what, just keep going!*** If you find yourself feeling stuck or unsure, reach out to your faculty, we have amazingly supportive faculty in the College of Education and the department of Educational Leadership.

Current Research Focus

My research is already becoming part of practice for me. Although my research primarily focuses on privacy in online education, I'm currently on a Library working group to examine Library data collection methods, retention policies and our practices regarding keeping identifiers on data about student interactions with the Library. We are also working toward a stronger written document that makes our student data practices more transparent.

Hometown
Gastonia, NC

Previous Institutions
Fayetteville State University

Interests Outside of
Research
technology, photography,
drones and aerial
photography

Fun Fact
After I complete the PhD
I will hold the record for
the most number of
individual credentials
earned from UNC
Charlotte!

Dissertation Defense

The dissertation defense is the final milestone toward degree completion. A doctoral candidate disseminates the results of their study during the final defense to the research committee and academic community.

**Emily
Shaw**



**Ed.D. P-12
Superintendency**

**An Exploratory Study of
Barriers and Supports
Faced by Women
Superintendents**

Chair: Dr. Walter Hart
Committee: Drs. Debra
Morris, Jimmy Watson,
and Joan Lachance

**Emily
Kraftson**



**Ed.D. P-12
Superintendency**

**An Investigation of the
Mental Health Literacy
of High School
Advanced Placement
Teachers**

Chair: Dr. Rebecca Shore
Committee: Drs. Walter
Hart, Hank Harris, and
Amy Good

**Hannah
Luce**



**Ph.D. in Educational
Research, Measurement,
and Evaluation**

**Establishing Time-
Continuous Normative
Scores for Teaching
Strategies GOLD Using
a Multilevel Growth
Curve Modeling
Approach**

Chair: Dr. Rich Lambert
Committee: Drs. Kyle
Cox, Stella Kim, and
Drew Polly



Dissertation Proposal

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.



Kelly Simmons

Ed.D. P-12 Superintendency

Co-Chairs: Drs. Walter Hart, Mark D’Amico
Committee: Drs. Jamie Kudlats, Scarlett Zhang, Heather Coffey

Introducing Bryce Hoggard



Graduate Student Worker

- **Education:** My undergraduate was at James Madison University where I earned my B.S. in Psychology. I am currently a counseling student with a concentration in addictions.
- **Special Interests:** LGBTQIA+ individuals and military veterans suffering with substance use disorder and PTSD.
- **Hobbies:** My hobbies include reading (currently reading *The Way of Kings* by Brandon Sanderson), playing video games with my partner, and hiking in the Shenandoah Valley.



Dissertation Portfolio

All students in the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Ph.D. in Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation programs are required to complete a portfolio as part of their degree requirements. The Ed.D. program uses completion of evidences for superintendency students and a portfolio for the higher education and LDT concentrations to exemplify the requirement

Higher Education

- Taniqua Canzater
- John Everett
- Jacob Frankovich
- Larry Gourdine
- Jordan Holliday-Millard
- Karen Shaffer
- Katie Watson

Learning, Design and Technology

- Jasmine Bishop
- Pariss Coleman
- Chikako Mori
- Darlene Schaefer
- Dwayne Simmons



Seated: Karen Shaffer, Jasmine Bishop, Chikako Mori
Standing: John Everett, Taniqua Canzater, Pariss Coleman, and Jacob Frankovich



Seated: Larry Gourdine and Katie Watson
Standing: Jordan Holliday-Millard and Darlene Schaefer



Kudos Corner

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

ALUMNI - Superintendency

Dr. Yolanda Blakeney (2023) and Dr. Titus Hopper (2023) were selected to present their dissertation research at the 2023 Color of Education Summit sponsored by the Dudley Flood Center for Educational Equity and Opportunity.

Superintendency

Emily Shaw was named Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources for the Montgomery County Schools.

Emily Kraftson was named Executive Director for Human Resources for the Union County Schools.

Kelly Simmons, was named Principal of the Stanly Early College in Stanly County.

Jennifer Brown, was named the Rowan-Salisbury Schools Principal of the Year.

Ph.D. in Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

Dave Frantzreb was promoted to a newly created position at Global Payments. He is the first CX Researcher and Pricing Analyst (Consumer Experience).

Marah Lambert presented research at the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AACE) 2023 conference in Lexington, KY.

Learning, Design and Technology

Krista Collins, is now Krista Sanchez due to her recent marriage to her husband, Dr. Elliot Sanchez.

Higher Education

Hal Hutchinson-Houk, was promoted as the new Production Manager and Lecturer in the College of Arts and Architecture in the Performing Arts Services unit.



LEDGER Did you know???

October Awareness Month Recognitions

Countless national and international celebrations are dedicated to raising awareness and support for meaningful causes each month.

Did you know about the causes recognized in October? How did you reflect, celebrate, or contribute?

Breast Cancer Awareness Month




Hispanic Heritage Month



ADHD Awareness Month

"No brain is the same. No brain is the best. Each brain finds its own special way."

-Dr. Hallowell, M.D.



LGBTQ+ History Month



Relationship Violence Awareness Month



Ed. Leadership in the News

Remain updated with current news in Educational Leadership .
Check out these articles that showcase relevant topics in education.

Campus Engagement Tip: Involving First-Gen Families

Colleges and universities can better support first-generation students with three strategies to create intentional educational experiences for family members to be involved in students' college experiences.

Most Governing Boards Don't Reflect Student Diversity

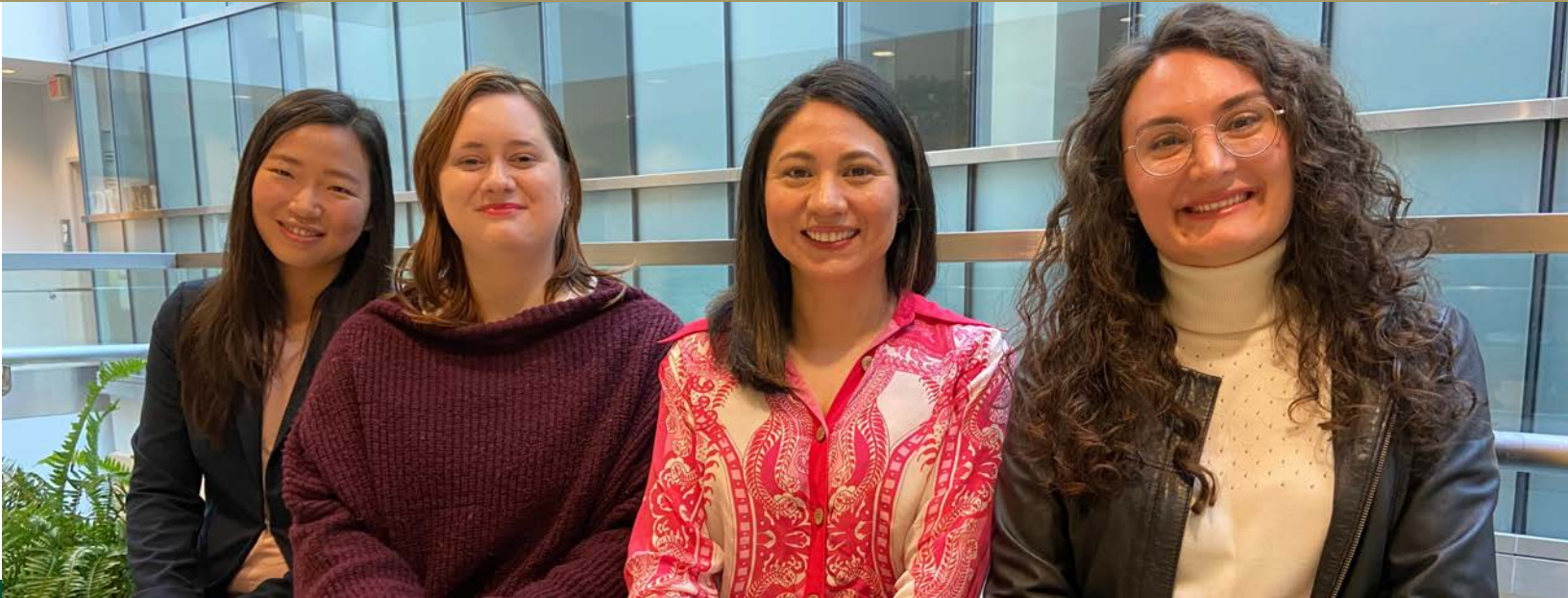
A new report in Washington Monthly shows a potential correlation between the diversity of college and university governing boards and graduation rates.

Getting Staff Relations Right

Given high-profile labor actions and the continuing wave of retirements across higher ed, among other issues, the stakes have rarely been higher, writes Laurie Fenlason.

Welcome to the Department of Educational Leadership!

Welcome to the new faculty and staff! Dr. Ji Yae Bong (LDT), Catherine Butt, Business Services Coordinator, Dr. Carmen Serrata (Higher Education), and Dr. Dilara Yaya-Bryson, Postdoctoral researcher.



Conferences

Are you looking to get involved with a professional organization? Would you like to share your research and learn from colleagues? Below are just a few of the conference opportunities coming up.

American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Annual Conference

October 29 - November 1 Reno, Nevada

<https://www.aaace.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1785010>

2023 Global Inclusion Conference

October 31-November 7 Chicago, IL

<https://conference.diversitynetwork.org/>

American Marketing Association Higher Ed Symposium

November 12 - 15, 2023 Chicago, IL

<https://www.ama.org/events/conference/2022-ama-symposium-for-the-marketing-of-higher-education/>

ASHE Higher Ed Research: Purposes, Politics, and Practice

November 15-18, 2023 Minneapolis, MN

<https://www.ashe.ws/conference>

National EDTECH and Innovation Conference & Expo

November 16-18 Las Vegas, NV

<https://neicweb.com/>

Teaching Struggling Brains: Improving Mental Health, Focus, Motivation, and Learning in a Distressed, Digital Generation

November 17-19 Boston, MA or Virtual

<https://www.learningandthebrain.com/conference-513/the-science-of-learning/>

UPCEA 32nd Annual Marketing, Enrollment Management, and Student Success Conf.

November 29 - December 1 Portland, Oregon

<https://conferences.upcea.edu/marketing/>

2024 NCARE Conference: "Dismantling Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Identity Injustices in Education: Constructing Equitable Opportunities for All"

February 15-16 Greensboro, NC

<https://ncafrie.wildapricot.org/2024conference>

The 65th Annual Council for the Study of Community Colleges Conference

April 18-20, 2024 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

<https://www.csc.pitt.edu/annual-conferences/>

American College Personnel Association (ACPA) 100th Anniversary

March 18-21, 2024 Chicago, Illinois

<https://www.csc.pitt.edu/annual-conferences/>

Read it and LEAD



True Biz
By: Sara Nović
NY Times Bestseller
Reese's Book Club

“She would learn as much as she could and do whatever she could to dismantle all that she knew to be broken, brick by brick, by hand if she had to. She would keep the bricks, though. She would use them to build something new.”

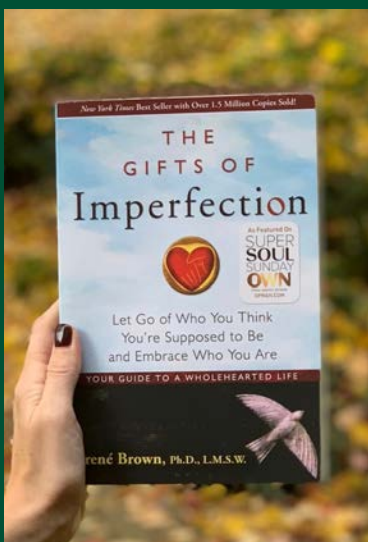
— Sara Nović



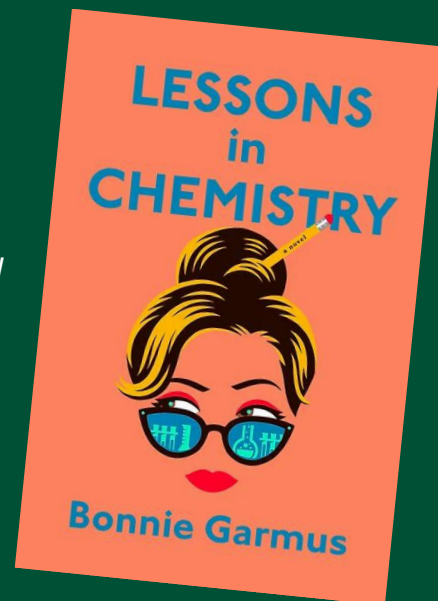
Lessons in Chemistry
By: Bonnie Garmus

Book recommendations are provided by faculty, staff, and students in the educational leadership community.
Happy Reading!

The Gifts of Imperfection
By: Brené Brown
NY Times Bestseller



“Courage is the root of change – and change is what we're chemically designed to do. So when you wake up tomorrow, make this pledge. No more holding yourself back. No more subscribing to others' opinions of what you can and cannot achieve.”
- Bonnie Garmus





Join ELSO for:
 Educational Support
 Leadership Opportunities
 Socialization



**Educational Leadership
 Student Organization**
 **UNC CHARLOTTE**

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.

Interested in ELSO? Please contact Jacob Frankovich, ELSO President, elso-org@uncc.edu

Consider signing up to become an ELSO member at <https://forms.gle/unsfrNjMpT8L8aWJ8>

ELSO Fall 2023 Events

Upcoming Events

- Pre-Class Snack Break, 11/7 from 4:00-5:15pm in COED
- Coffee & Convo, 11/13 from 12:00-1:00pm @ Union Starbucks

Past Events

- Conference Proposal Writing Workshop
- Coffee & Convos
- Pumpkin Patch Social Event at Truist Field
- APA & Academic Writing Workshop
- Welcome back social event at Armored Cow Brewery

Connect with us!

- **Educational Leadership and ELSO Facebook groups:** [UNC Charlotte EdD Educational Leadership Student Organization \(ELSO\)](#)
- **Niner Engage:** Niner Engage is a university platform to browse organizations and events. After becoming a member of ELSO, you will also be able to view invites and reminders [ELSO Niner Engage](#)
- **Group Me:** GroupMe is a mobile group messaging app to help groups connect. Email Vice President, Jacob Frankovich, jfranko1@uncc.edu, to join the ELSO GroupMe
- **Email Communications:** Look out for ELSO announcements in Department Emails

Get Involved With ELSO!



NINER ENGAGE



Fall 2023 in Pictures

Another semester means more exciting memories. Take a look at some of the events that took place this semester!



ELSO Welcome Back Social at Armored Cow Brewery



M.Ed. students connecting at the ELSO welcome back Social



ELSO Leadership Team 2023-2024



ELSO Coffee and Convo



ERME Welcome Social



New departmental graduate assistants tour campus



ELSO President and family enjoying the ELSO Pumpkin Patch event



Alumna from the M.Ed. Program representing UNC Charlotte

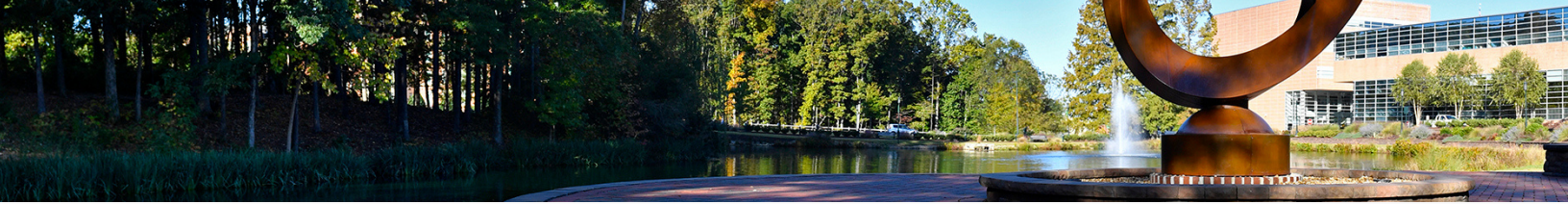


ELSO Pumpkin Patch Social Event at Truist Field



Upcoming Dates

- October 30** Registration for Spring 2024
- November 7** ELSO Pre-Class Snack Event
- November 10** Veteran's Day - No Classes
- November 13** Coffee & Convo
- November 13** Doctoral dissertation deadline
- November 20** Dissertation submission deadline
- November 22-25** Thanksgiving Break - No Classes
- November 23-24** Thanksgiving Break
University Closed
- December 6** Last Day of Classes
- December 7** Reading Day
- December 16** Graduate School Commencement
- December 18** Due date for final grades



Questions?
Ideas for a future newsletter?
Something to celebrate?
Let us know!
edld-edd@uncc.edu



© Department of Educational Leadership
May 2023

Development
Bryce Hoggard & Tynsley Gilchrist

Production and Editor
Dr. Cathy Howell

