Message from the Chair

Hello to the EDLF family! I hope all are enjoying the beauty of the fall season. At the departmental level, we experienced a very creative and constructive 2011-2012 academic year as faculty and staff were actively engaged in a variety of research-oriented projects with several of our students serving in collaboration.

For example, Robin Dankovich (Ed.D. student, Cohort 15), serves not only as a Graduate Assistant, she is also an Assistant Instructor in our doctoral level special topics course, EDAD 6370—“The Professoriate”. The course design was the result of a collaborative effort between Robin and Dr. Rincones with the aim of introducing doctoral students to faculty life.

Moreover, Laura Guzman-DuVernois, (Ed.D. student, Cohort 15) has been instrumental in assisting Dr. Teresa Cortez with Internships I and II. In addition Laura is involved assisting with a research project regarding ethical behaviors and expectations for educators, and a new graduate program project.

Edith Vera (Ed.D. student, Cohort 13), supported the K-12 school administration faculty by producing a second questionnaire regarding our newly established scheduling of courses which began in Spring, and continued into Summer. The raw data has already proved helpful by facilitating upcoming course scheduling. Additionally, Edith has helped organize the Fall 2012 workshops “EDLF Advanced Doctoral Student Seminars” which are an effort to extend a culture of inquiry for our students and faculty. Please stay tuned and follow our Facebook page to find out about upcoming events (https://www.facebook.com/UTEP.EDLF)

Marianne Rivero-Heinrichs (Ed.D. student, Cohort 15) continues to assist with our online course – EDAD 5311 (Curriculum Renewal) – taught by Dr. Mendez.

Vanessa Ruiz (Ed.D. Student, Cohort 16) has done extensive research for Dr. Schulte and the Provost’s Office on a survey of UTEP civic engagement with the greater El Paso community. She is also working on a project for me—the Strategic Conversions and Expansions Distance Education Efforts RFP.

Finally, Mary Sholtis, a student in the principal-preparation program, has worked as a research assistant aiding me with investigative work and data gathering for the newly revised, second-edition, of the bestselling text – The Principal’s Guide to School Budgeting (Corwin, 2013).

Quality and Innovation

The overarching theme for our department and college has been and continues to be one of quality and innovation. The fruits of our labor include:

The enhancement of our K-12 school administration program to include a fast-track process by which students can now complete their Master’s degree and earn a principal certificate in one-year. If you have friends or colleagues, or know of individuals that possess strong leadership skills, make them aware of this newly established “fast-track” program. Encourage these individuals to enroll for the Spring, 2013, semester.

The development of The Accelerated Track for central Office Administration Programs (30-credit hour), which will be available to students in Fall, 2013. This new program is a fast-track program being developed and designed with a totally online approach to best serve individuals at the ISD level who hold key positions in administrative support departments such as Human Resources, Business or Finance, Curriculum and Instruction, Facilities, Planning, Technology, Research and Evaluation, or Student Services, for example. Individuals working in these critical administrative-oriented departments are frequently too busy to attend face-to-face class sessions at the university and are typically not interested in pursuing a principal’s certificate. However, these same individuals strongly desire, as lead learners, to continue their education. Now, with this new program – a first of its kind in the state – our department opens the door to a frequently ignored yet vital area of administrative service. This new fast-track (earn a degree in less than one-year) program has been exclusively designed for the active specialist at the ISD level who works in a central office role.

Thank You Colleagues

I would be remiss to not acknowledge the exceptional leadership role and management capacity of Dr. Rodolfo Rincones who served as our department chairperson from 2009 to 2012. A debt of gratitude and appreciation is extended to Dr. Rincones for his special guidance and direction as department chair. His perseverance, tenacity, and calm and sensible attitude, as well as his constructive approach, brought a high level of stability to the department.

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Message from the Chair—continued from cover

Thank you, Dr. Rincones, for your service as a strong and positive chairperson! We appreciate you!

Finally, we are deeply saddened by the departure of one of our own – Dr. Zulma Méndez. Dr. Méndez took on a new role and responsibility at UTEP, and is now serving as Programs Coordinator at the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies. Thank you, Dr. Méndez, for your years of dedication to our students and for your collegial and professional relationship with members of our department. We miss your day-to-day presence!

Concluding Thoughts

If anyone has suggestions or comments regarding our programs and current or proposed changes, please feel free to communicate with me or any of the department faculty. Our doors remain open and we expect and are prepared to meet your needs. We wish you continued success in your studies and other professional endeavors, and we anticipate that you will experience a productive closing to your fall semester!

Dr. Richard Sorenson
Department Chairperson &
Associate Professor
rsorenson@utep.edu

Important Dates to Remember

December 2012

- continuing Spring 2013 registration ongoing
- 12/15 Commencement
- 12/24-12/31 Winter Holiday, University Closed

January 2013

- 1/1 Winter Holiday, University Closed
- 1/21 MLK Day, University Closed
- 1/12 First Day of Classes - Spring 2013

March 2013

- 3/1 Graduation Application Due ($30) - late fees apply after today
- 3/18-22 Spring Break

Do you need to select classes for Spring?

- Reminder—Spring 2013 registration is underway. Course sections are filling or may be canceled for low enrollment - so do not delay!
- If you need assistance in selecting courses contact your advisor and set up a meeting ASAP.
- If you are unsure of who your advisor is, contact EDLF at 915-747.5300 or email us at edlf@utep.edu

Publications and Presentations


Josie Lucker (Ed.D. '12, Cohort 3) and Dr. Rodolfo Rincones received notice that their paper, "Campus Administrators’ knowledge of Special Education and Social Justice Issues involved in Educating “All” students was accepted for presentation at the 2012 UCEA annual convention in Denver CO. The conference will take place November 15-19, 2012 in Denver Co. Dr. Rincones is also presenting a paper (International Perspectives on "high need schools": Implications for Leadership preparation and development: The Mexican case) at the same conference.

Dr. Eduardo Arellano and colleagues from New Mexico State University (NMSU) had a manuscript accepted for publication this past summer. The article will be published in the Journal of Diversity in Higher Education and is titled, "The importance of cross-racial interactions as part of college education: Perceptions of Faculty". This article is a result of a research grant from the Center for Teacher Excellence out of Eastern New Mexico University. The article presents a qualitative study on the role of college faculty in fostering cross-racial interactions among their students. The article also provides practical recommendations for faculty and possible future research.
Seminars and Workshops

The EDLF department is working on developing opportunities outside the classroom to further engage and develop all our students as practitioner and scholars. While all of our lives are busy, seek out opportunities that extend your experiences and provide reinforcement to your work, teaching and learning. We are all learners who must take advantage of opportunities to tune in and engage. Like Benjamin Franklin wisely observed. "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." So we challenge you to get involved and amplify your learning by taking advantage of the upcoming seminars and discussions in education.

By the way if you are looking to learn more about upcoming events like the EDLF Facebook page by visiting: www.facebook.com/UTEP.EDLF

Advanced Doctoral Student Seminars
The Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations and the Center for Research on Education Reform have joined forces and sponsored several Advanced Doctoral Student Seminars this fall. In an effort to contribute to our growing culture of inquiry, students nearing the end of their doctoral studies discuss their findings in a collegial and casual atmosphere. These lunchtime working seminars provide a place for us to gather, learn about the important work that students have accomplished and break bread, as lunch is also provided. Earlier in the semester two students have already shared their work via these seminars. First on October 26th, Edith Vera (Ed.D. Student, Cohort 13) enlightened us on her topic that focused on the experiences of current and former students of our very own Ed.D. program. Most recently, Andrew Peña (Ed.D. Student, Cohort 13) shared his knowledge on his research of generational employees working in higher education and how employee attrition affects our institutions. Our next presenter will be Sarah Chavez-Gibson on November 30, 2012 - 12 noon (EDUC 908) discussing her dissertation entitled “CPAD: Comprehensive, Powerful, Academic Database To Identify At-Risk Students Through Progress, Curriculum, and Performance Monitoring By Using A Predictive Tool Designed for Elementary School Personnel". Please join us for lunch and celebrate the efforts of our fine students.

Saturday Solutions Seminars
Yet again, Dr. Cortez is sharing her knowledge with the next general of school leaders in a series of workshop collaborations with Dr. Carolyn Awalt called Saturday Solutions. Seminars are designed to provide support to all new and beginning teachers. Join us, share with others and if interested volunteer for future presentations. Upcoming events include:

**November 17** (9am-12noon in EDUC 201) *Strategies that Work* presented by our own K12 Administration Interns

**December 8** (9am-12noon in EDUC 201) *Crisis Management*

FALL Doctoral Student Capstone
Our fall capstone seminar is an opportunity to learn about the dissertation proposals of doctoral students nearing the end of their course work. Presentations are scheduled for **Tuesday, December 11th** beginning at 5 pm (in Education Room 110). Members of the faculty and students are welcome and allowed the opportunity to ask questions and provided insights during each presentation. The following students are currently scheduled to present; Patricia Cuevas (Cohort 15), Robin Dankovich (Cohort 15), Laura Guzman-DuVernois (Cohort 15), Pedro Lopez (Cohort 14), Rubeen Moreno (Cohort 15), and Jose Ortiz (Cohort 15).

FALL 2012 Dissertation Defenses
Those of you in the Ed.D. program, interested in the program or the topic of the day should consider joining the faculty as students, who are now experts on their topic, defend their dissertation. Our fall dissertation defenses are as follow, all held in Education Room 400A:

- **Monday, November 26th** @ 10:00 am—**Andrew Peña**
  Dissertation Title: When Generational Employees Leave Higher Education, What Do We Lose, and What They Leave Behind?

- **Wednesday, November 28th** @ 9:00 am—**Edith Vera**
  Dissertation Title: The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration: The Student’s and Alumni Experiences

- **Tuesday, December 4th** @ 2:00 pm—**Holly Fields**
  Topic: Readiness for College: A Case Study of Three Hispanic Immigrant Students Who Overcame the Odds.

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

William Butler Yeats
Thinking of earning your Master’s Degree and/or Principal Certification?

Now is the time, get on the fast-track...

Earn your Master’s degree and principal certification in only 1 YEAR!
Registration for Spring 2013 now open, financial aid available.

The University of Texas at El Paso’s Educational Leadership and Foundations Department now offers a number of scheduling options and course formats to meet the needs of today’s busy practitioner, including:

- 2 week class modules during Maymester and Summer
- 7 week class modules each Spring & Fall
- 14 week traditional courses also available
- Evening, weekend, hybrid and online class options

Take action, get started today!

For more information, contact:
Dr. Richard Sorenson, Department Chairperson
rsorenson@utep.edu or 915.747.5383

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EDLF Addressing the Tier One Agenda

The EDLF department is currently contributing on a number of fronts to UTEP’s push toward Tier One. For those of you unfamiliar with this institutional focus is it UTEP’s aim to be the first national research university in Texas to fully serve the 21st century demographic. As a department we aim to support the goal of Tier One through initiatives that target research, professional growth, enrollment, and external funding.

Our current research areas that focus on K-12 education included the international perspectives on “High Needs Schools: and their implications on leadership preparation and development. In addition we are also aiming to understand administrative offers and employment opportunities in an era of fiscal conservatism through a survey of administrators in rural west Texas school districts.

Other research focusing on the transition to higher education targets ‘at-risk’ beginning college students and their experiences with gateway course and the effects of technology based interventions. In addition, our faculty are engaged in investigating cross-racial interactions among college students once in college and the perceptions of faculty regarding institutions in transition to Tier I status.

Contributions EDLF is making in the area of professional development include our work with the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, the Kentucky Association of School Administrators and the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA). We are providing planning and evaluating services for GEAR UP programs in the Ysleta and Soccoro ISDs as well as for the EPCC Rise Program. Also our support and contributions to new teacher development are provided via Saturday Solutions Seminars often supported by our principal track students.

Our focus on enrollment includes recruiting directly in the districts and area campuses for new K-12 track students via fliers, direct email, site visits and our new social media initiatives. The development of the ‘Fast Track’ K-12 program responds to student feedback and aims continue to attract qualified students. Through the support and grow of partner student organization, Higher Education Students Association, we continue to get the word out through area campuses and networking events about our program as well.

EDLF has also engaged in a number of efforts to gain external funding. Submission on STEM pathways and retention, minority faculty at Hispanic Serving Institutions, scientific careers of young Hispanics/Latinos, as well as the conversion of both the superintendent and support service administration program to 100% online are helping EDLF address the Tier One Agenda.

Higher Education Student Association News

The purpose of the Higher Education Student Association (HESA) is to foster a sense of community among students interested in Higher Education Administration including students, alumni, faculty, and staff, as well as active participation of the members to enrich the Higher Education Program at UTEP. HESA will accomplish its purpose by fulfilling the following objectives:

· To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on current issues in higher education.
· To provide opportunities for professional and personal development.
· To recognize students, faculty, and staff in Higher Education Administration.
· To act as a liaison between students and the College of Education.

With the help of our faculty advisor, Dr. Eduardo Arellano, and Officers Tony Romero, Tiffany Henley and Armida Blanca Schaffino, HESA has been busy preparing for the new academic year. We began by selling beads at Minerpalooza to raise funds for scholarships for our members to attend professional development conferences.

We also hosted a Welcome and Orientation event for new and returning students as a means to encourage mentorship and support. Dr. Josefina Tinajero, Dean-College of Education, Dr. Judith Munter and Dr. Don Schulte, Associate Deans also participated in the event. Our emphasis was to promote a one-on-one mentoring relationship with faculty, staff and second year Higher Education students.

HESA members and their families also recently gathered for a tailgate party behind the psychology building on the UTEP campus on October 20th at 2:00 p.m. to celebrate UTEP’s homecoming— it sure was a lot of fun. Our latest event was our successful Speed Mentoring Night held on November 12, 2012. Please join us for our future activities, everyone is welcome and any University of Texas at El Paso student who is interested in higher education may join.

For further information, please contact Hilda Alarcon, HESA President at 747-7480 or by e-mail at hlechu-ga@utep.edu. You can also join on HESA Facebook Group by visiting www.facebook.com/groups/UTEPHESA/.
Miners on the Move

K12 Administration

Congratulations to our current & former K12 students making moves of their own.

Lidia Anguiano (Principal Cert., '04) is now AP at Alta Vista/Burnet Elementary
Adrian Bustillos (M.Ed., '11) is now the AP for Guidance & Instruction at Jefferson High.
Ruben Campos (Principal Cert., '06) now is the AP at Coldwell Elementary School.
Adriana Cantú now Desert Hills Elementary Principal for Clint Independent School District
Noe Cantú is now Testing Coordinator at Clint Independent School District
Sarah Chavez-Gibson (M.Ed., '06, Ed.D. Student, Cohort 12) is now the assistant principal at Newman Elementary.
Maribel Chavez (M.Ed., '11) is named Assistant Principal at Magoffin Middle School.
Michael Coppock (M.Ed., '12) name AP at Guillen Middle School.
Jennifer DeGraff (M.Ed., '06) is now the Assistant Principal at Irvin High.
Mary E. Faraci (M.Ed., '04) becomes Principal at Canyon Hills Middle School.
Thelma Gaumer (M.Ed., '12) now is Assistant Principal at Jefferson High.
Christopher Gibson (M.Ed., '12) is the new assistant principal at Logan Elementary.
Jose Gijon (M.Ed., '05) was named Principal of Coldwell Elementary in July.
Angela Hernandez received a $3,000 award as Mentor Teacher of the Year at the ABC Conference in September.
Wanda Johnson (M.Ed., '06) is not Principal of Travis Elementary.
Mike Kirkland (M.Ed. '06) was named Assistant Principal at Henderson Middle School.
Deborah Lunow (M.Ed., '01) is now Principal at Canyon Hills Middle School.
Sandra Portillo-Sanchez (M.Ed., '04) is the new principal at Moye Elementary.
Iurma Pirtle (M.Ed., '04) is now the new Principal at MacArthur Elementary.
Michelle Pringle was assigned as the new Assistant Principal at Guerrero Elementary.
Diana Provencio (Principal Cert., '06) is now the AP at Herrera Elementary.
Adriana Ruiz (M.Ed., '09) was assigned as the Principal of Hawkins Elementary.
Judy Ruiz (M.Ed., '05) named Student Intake & Transition Administrator Raymond Telles
Magdiely Salazar (M.Ed., '09) is assigned as Assistant Principal at Putnam Elementary.
Ricky Schuft (M.Ed., '11) named AP at Moye Elementary.
Jocelyn Scott (M.Ed., '11) is now Assistant Principal at Zach White Elementary.
Robert Stives new Campus College Readiness Coordinator at El Paso High.
Michael Warmack is the new Principal at Zach White Elementary.
Kertrenia Wright (M.Ed., '02) is Principal at Bonham Elementary.

EDLF Faculty

Don P. Schulte (Ed.D., '00, Cohort 1) was recently assigned as Interim Associate Dean for UTEP's College of Education in addition to being awarded tenure this past summer. Congratulations Dr. Schulte!

Higher Education

Ryan C. Holmes (Ed.D. student, Cohort 15) Associate Dean of Students and Assistant to the VPSA here at UTEP is currently serving as President of the Association for Student Conduct Administration. For more information on this organization or the great work that Ryan and his colleagues are doing nationally visit www.theasca.org/.