

*The Newsletter of the Doctoral Program in
Educational Leadership*

December 2009

From the DPELFS Director:

Welcome to the first issue of the “re-newed” Doctoral Program newsletter. This issue highlights the activities and accomplishments of both our graduates and our current doctoral students. We hope that this issue will be the impetus for all of you to let us know what is going on in your lives.

We are very excited as our first cohort of DPELFS (“deep elfs”, as opposed to “shallow elfs” – thank you Cohort 2!) enter the last phase of the doctoral program and commence on their dissertation research. The topics they have selected are both interesting and important to the Central Valley. Through these research pursuits, the real expertise of our faculty and the contributions they make to education have become very apparent. We are very lucky to have these wonderful, supportive faculty as part of our doctoral program.



I was very pleased to learn that eight of our doctoral students attended the UCEA annual conference this semester in Anaheim. I heard two comments from those participants – one was “great conference and very inspiring related to our research” and second, “what a great program we have here at Fresno State”! I am also pleased at the response from our students in their planning to participate in the January 20, 2010 “Best Practices” conference.

As our first cohort of doctoral students prepare for their final semester and prepare for their graduation, I am reminded that *THREE YEARS* goes by very fast and also that we are fortunate to have great staff and graduate assistants in our office. Thank you Diane, Ann, Taryn, Amy (and our student assistants as well!) for all you do to find my lost paperwork, keep our graduates on task with their paperwork, and most of all, for the joy you bring to the office each day – we couldn’t function without you!

May all of you have a restful, peaceful holiday and a very Happy New Year!

Sharon

IMPORTANT DATES

PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR FALL 2010: MARCH 6, 2010
GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: MAY 6, 2010

Introducing the First Three Doctoral Cohorts of the New Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Fresno State (DPELFS)

In April 2007, Fresno State was the first California State University campus to receive final approval from Chancellor Charles B. Reed to offer a doctorate in educational leadership. A change in state law permitted independent doctoral programs in educational leadership to be offered at California State University campuses. The new program offers separate tracks for Pre-K-12 and post-secondary (community college and higher education institutions) education leaders.

Cohort 1 (Admitted Fall 2007)

Idia Abode, Teacher, Fresno Unified School District, Lane Elementary

Johnny Alvarado, Principal, Clovis Unified School District, Kastner Intermediate

Jothany Blackwood, Dean of Instruction, Fresno City College, Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Devin Blizzard, Principal, Clovis Unified School District, Alta Sierra Intermediate

Kimberley Boyer, Director, Central Valley Afterschool Foundation, Staff Development and Research

Teneecia Brannon, Teacher, Central Unified School District, Teague Elementary

Rob Darrow, Principal, Clovis Unified School District, Clovis Online School

Ben Drati, Principal, Clovis Unified School District, Clovis West High School

Marc Hammack, Learning Director, Clovis Unified School District, Kastner Intermediate

Melissa Ireland, Principal, Sierra Unified School District, Sierra High School

Shannon Lawrence, Deputy Principal, Clovis Unified School District, Clovis East High School

Gary Lowe, Research Analyst, University of California, Merced, Institutional Planning and Analysis

Andrea Mora, Teacher, Clovis Unified School District, Gateway High School

Eimear O'Farrell, Deputy Principal, Clovis Unified School District, Clovis West High School

Ron Oxford, Faculty Librarian, West Hills College, Lemoore

Tangee Pinheiro, Lecturer, California State University, Fresno, Department of Counseling, Special Education and Rehabilitation

Adrian Ramirez, Career Development Counselor, California State University, Fresno, Career Services

Susana Ramirez, Interim Superintendent, Golden Plains Unified School District

Mark Sanchez, Director, Evergreen Valley College, Student Support Services Programs



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Tracy Smith, Principal, Clovis Unified School District, Woods Elementary

Klaus Tenbergen, Assistant Professor, California State University, Fresno, Department of Food Science and Nutrition

Cohort 2 (Admitted Fall 2008)

Nancy Akhavan, Assistant Superintendent, Fresno Unified School District, Secondary Division

George Alvarado, Learning Director, Clovis Unified School District, Clovis High School



Diana Banuelos, Director of Grant Funded Programs, Reedley College, Student Services

Diane Benefiel, Clinical Instructor, Lab Coordinator, Fresno City College, Health Sciences, Nursing Department

Bridget Bousquet-Heyne, Instructor, Fresno City College, Nursing Department

Robyn Castillo, Administrator, Clovis Unified School District, Professional Development and Curriculum Innovations

Ann-Maura Cervantes, Assistant Director, Clovis Unified School District, Student Services and School

Attendance

Shelly Conner, Director, State Center Community College District, Grants and External Funding

Carol Curtis, Instructor, Fresno City College, Mathematics

Oswaldo De Luna, Director, Madera County Office of Education, Curriculum and Instruction

Taryn Harmon, Research Assistant, California State University, Fresno, Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

Lisa Leininger, Lecturer, California State University, Fresno, Department of Kinesiology

Claudia Lourido-Habib, Instructor, Fresno City College, Applied Technology

JoDee Marcellin, Coordinator 7-12, Sanger Unified School District, Curriculum and Instruction

Christina Matus, Development Director, Family Healthcare Network

Christine Montanez, Student, California State University, Fresno, Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

Monica Nolasco, Counselor/Coordinator, Madera Community College, Upward Bound

Marla Prochnow, Instructor, College of the Sequoias, Anthropology

John Quinto, Service Manager, Fresno Unified School District, Maintenance and Operations

Rene Rosas, Learning Director, Clovis Unified School District, Kastner Intermediate

Richard Santos, Instructor, Fresno City College, English Second Language/Linguistics

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Matilda Soria, Director, Reading and Beyond, Research and Development
Adrian Varanini, Director, Chowchilla Elementary School District, Special Education/Psychologist
Tachua Vue, Learning Director, Clovis Unified School District, Clovis West High School
Jennifer Watson, Principal, Clovis Unified School District, Valley Oak Elementary
Jessica Yergat, Vice Principal/School Psychologist, Central Unified School District, Polk Elementary School and Houghton-Kearney School

Cohort 3 (Admitted Fall 2009)

Cheryle Anderson, Regional Instructional Specialist, Fresno County Office of Education
Amy Brogan, Part-time Faculty, California State University, Fresno, Department of Kinesiology

Kimberly Cole, Counselor, California State University, Fresno, KSOEHD-Teacher Recruitment Programs

Natalie Culver-Dockins, Dean, Fresno City College, Workforce Development

Bradley Hufft, Part-time Faculty, California State University, Fresno, Department of Music

Amber Jacobo, Administrative Analyst, Fresno Unified School District, Research, Evaluation and Assessment

Kent Karsevar, Director of Development, California State University, Fresno, College of Social Sciences

Sarah Koligian, Superintendent, Golden Valley Unified School District

Alicia Lozano, Registered Nurse, Fresno Community Hospital

Lorena Maldonado, Teacher, 3rd grade Dual Immersion, Lindsay Unified School District, Jefferson Elementary

Steven Martinez, Assistant Superintendent, Fresno Unified School District, Secondary Education

Mary Ann McCarthy, Lecturer, California State University, Fresno, Department of Nursing

Justin Miller, Principal, Madera County Office of Education, Pioneer Technical Center

Alison Mosley, English/Language Arts and Reading Teacher, 7th grade, Fresno Unified School District, Kings Canyon Middle School

Angelica Reynosa, Guidance and Learning Specialist, Clovis Unified School District, Clovis West High School

Carmen Rodriguez, Teacher on Special Assignment, Fresno Unified School District

Sabrina Rodriguez, Vice Principal, Madera Unified School District, Berenda Elementary School

Klazina Ryken, Special Education Coordinator, Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Head Start Program



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Perla Soria, Migrant Instructional Counselor, Lindsay Unified School District, Migrant Educational Program – Region 24

Janell Tatsumura, Faculty, Coordinator, Liberal Studies Program, California State University, Fresno, Kremen School of Education and Human Development

Joyce Vasquez, Lieutenant, City of Fresno, Fresno Police Department

Jennifer Whyte, Coordinator, California State University, Fresno, Women’s Resource Center

Jesse Wilcoxson, Division Chair, College of the Sequoias, Visalia, Biological Sciences Department

Tara Williams, English Teacher, Selma Unified School District, Selma High School

Rosemary (Sandie) Woods, Vice Principal School of Health Science, Madera Unified School District, Madera High School

DOCTORAL GRADUATES

The following doctoral students received their doctorate in education from the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership.

Spring 2006 JDPEL Graduates

Robb Christopherson (Cohort 11). *The relationships between the practices of external evaluators working with Immediate Improvement Schools Program (II/USP) and evaluation practices that enhance utilization of evaluation recommendations and organizational learning.* Sharon Brown-Welty (Chair), Ronald Unruh, James Catterall.

Corey Greenlaw (Cohort 12). *A comparison of web-based and traditional survey methods: Testing assumptions of time, cost, functionality, and utility.* Sharon Brown-Welty (Chair), Karen Carey, Karen Watson-Gegeo.



Sonya Hildreth (Cohort 5). *Effect of a brief, structured intervention on college students experiencing academic difficulty.* Karen Carey (Chair), Karen Watson-Gegeo, Joseph Castro.

John Jackson (Cohort 6). *A review of violence intervention programs for juveniles.* Donald Coleman (Chair), Douglas Minnis, George Yonge.

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Everett Lovelace (Cohort 12). *An inquiry into factors that serve as influences and impediments towards achieving success as an African American educational leader.* Karen Carey (Chair), Sharon Brown-Welty, Karen Watson-Gegeo.

Marcia Masumoto (Cohort 12). *Leadership practices in successful high-poverty rural California high schools.* Sharon Brown-Welty (Chair), Susan Tracz, Joseph Castro.

Kristen Santos (Cohort 11). *What do teacher-created portfolios reveal about the impact of induction on student achievement?* James Marshall (Chair), Joseph Castro, Sandra Murphy.

Fall 2006 JDPEL Graduates

Jose Castaneda (Cohort 11). *Effect of Hispanic national origin on salary differential for male elementary school principals: A structured analysis to explore the existence and implications.* I. Phillip Young (Chair), John McNeil, James Marshall.

Susan Cox (Cohort 12). *Examining the socio-economic context of school communities in association with childhood's asthmas and student health measures, with a suburban school district in the San Joaquin Valley to identify possible areas affecting educational outcomes.* Susan Tracz (Chair), Ronald Unruh, Karen Watson-Gegeo.

Spring 2007 JDPEL Graduates

Sharon Cathy Davis (Cohort 10). *A comparative study examining the effectiveness for instruction for English learners: Crosscultural language and academic development certified teachers versus non-crosscultural language and academic development certified teachers.* Karen Carey (Chair), Karen Watson-Gegeo, James Marshall.

Laurie Goodman (Cohort 13). *Leadership practices in California middle schools: Sustaining organizational change that promotes students academic success.* Joseph Castro (Chair), Karen Carey, Donald Wise.



Pa Vue (Cohort 13). *Factors that contribute towards and/or impede Hmong women from obtaining a higher education degree.* Sharon Brown-Welty (Chair), Karen Carey, Karen Watson-Gegeo.

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Mui Vuong (Cohort 13). *The effects of self-efficacy on first-generation college sophomore students.* Sharon Brown-Welty (Chair), Donald Wise, Joseph Castro.

Summer 2007 JDPEL Graduates

Elida Garza (Cohort 11). *Collective bargaining as a possible factor in Title I schools' response measures to close the achievement gap between White (non-Hispanic) and Latino students.* James Marshall (Chair), John McNeil, Sharon Brown-Welty.

Fall 2007 JDPEL Graduates

Kendall Zoller (Cohort 11). *Nonverbal patterns of teachers from five countries: Results from the TIMSS-R video study.* Karen Watson-Gegeo (Chair), Karen Carey, William Sommer.

Spring 2008 JDPEL Graduates

Leonard Carrillo (Cohort 13). *What obstacles or support mechanism do Latinos and Latinas encounter in becoming principals and sustaining their leadership positions in California?* Karen Watson-Gegeo (Chair), Karen Carey, Donald Wise, Kenneth Magdaleno.

John Forbes (Cohort 13). *Salient factors of urban teacher job attraction related to job satisfaction: An empirical study.* I. Phillip Young (Chair), Donald Wise, James Marshall.



Randal Haggard (Cohort 9). *The instructional leadership practices of principals in K-8 schools and their impact on student learning outcomes.* Susan Tracz (Chair), Joseph Castro, Donald Wise.

Belinda Pena (Cohort 7). *Middle School Students and School Resistance.* Karen Watson-Gegeo (Chair), Karen Carey, Joseph Castro.

Maiyoua Vang (Cohort 14). *Effects of student achievement on the job satisfaction of public elementary school principals.* I. Phillip Young (Chair), Ronald Unruh, Donald Wise.

Dennis Wiechmann (Cohort 12). *The relationship between California's Community Day Schools facility type and facility condition with measures of academic readiness, academic achievement, and resiliency.* Sharon Brown-Welty (Chair), Karen Carey, Karen Watson-Gegeo.

Summer 2008 JDPEL Graduates

Karen Young (Cohort 14). *Effects of gender and national origin of middle school principal applicants on the screening decisions made by female and male superintendents.* Ronald Unruh (Chair), Donald Wise, John McNeil.

Fall 2008 JDPEL Graduates

Rebecca Malmo (Cohort 11). *Prediction of freshman retention among collegiate student-athletes.* James Marshall (Chair), Sharon Brown-Welty, John McNeil

Spring 2009 JDPEL Graduates

Michelle Engel-Silva (Cohort 15). *The role of distributed leadership in quality educational organizations.* Karen Watson-Gegeo (Chair), Sharon Brown-Welty, Susan Tracz.

Steve Gonzalez (Cohort 14). *Analysis of positive behavior support plans: A comparison between low and high quality positive behavior support plans and implications for students.* Susan Tracz (Chair), Karen Carey, Karen Watson-Gegeo.

Ellen Melocik (Cohort 14). *Secondary teacher retention in the San Joaquin Valley.* Donald Wise (Chair), Susan Tracz, I. Phillip Young.

Katie Olivant (Cohort 14). *An interview study of teachers' perceptions of the role of creativity in a high-stakes testing environment.* Karen Watson-Gegeo (Chair), Karen Carey, Sandra Murphy.

Jerimicha Powell

(Cohort 15). *High school principal selection of assistant principal candidates: Factors contributing to candidate bias based on national origin, chronological age, and method of administrative certification.* I. Phillip Young (Chair), James Marshall, Ronald Unruh.

Donald Reimer (Cohort 15). *Effect of gender on pay differential and pay satisfaction for middle school principals.* I. Phillip Young (Chair), James Marshall, Donald Wise.



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Cindy Rogers (Cohort 13). *The relationship between teachers' implicit theories of intelligence and their beliefs about teaching higher-order thinking skills to low-achieving students.* Sharon Brown-Welty (Chair), Donald Wise, John McNeil.

Wesley Sever (Cohort 13). *Effects of national origin of candidates and focal position experience of candidates on screening decisions of female and of male middle school principals.* I. Phillip Young (Chair), James Marshall, Donald Wise.

Ray Tjahjadi (Cohort 14). *Educational technology: The perceived values of community colleges' position holders.* I. Phillip Young (Chair), Ronald Unruh, John McNeil.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CSUF/UCD Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership (JDPEL)

Philip Abode, Ed.D. (Cohort 5) had his dissertation titled "Strategy and Performance Among California's Largest School Districts" recently published as a book (monograph). The publisher is Lambert Academic Publishing in Cologne, Germany.

Cricket Barakzai, Ed.D. (Cohort 10) is an Associate Professor in the Nursing Department and Director of the Central California Center for Excellence in Nursing at California State University, Fresno.

James Bushman, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) has started his fourth year as the Head of School for University High School on the campus of Fresno State. In December of 2008 UHS was named the 45th best public high school and the 10th best charter high school in the nation according to U.S. News and World Report.

Judith Cantrell, Ed.D. (Cohort 9) serves as Education Programs Consultant, Program Management Team, First 5 California Children and Families Commission in Sacramento, California.

Wendy Costa, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) lives in Maryland, where she does the educational programming for Mount Harmon Plantation. She is also a consultant to the Maryland Charter School Network and has produced a webinar on charter school accountability.

Sharon Davis, Ed.D. (Cohort 10) opened the Davis Literacy Institute in 2008 in Visalia, California.

Michael Giovannetti, Ed.D. (Cohort 8) is now the Executive Director of The Renaissance Group, a national consortium of universities focused on improving teacher preparation programs. He began that position in July 2008 at Fresno State.

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Carole Goldsmith, Ed.D. (Cohort 11) was promoted to Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Workforce Development for West Hills Community College District.

Sonya Hildreth, Ed.D. (Cohort 5) will retire from her position as Dean of Student Services, Counseling and Guidance at Fresno City College February 2010.

Marianne Jones, Ed.D. (Cohort 5) became chair of the Department of Child, Family and Consumer Sciences at Fresno State in 2007 and was promoted to full professor in August, 2009. She was appointed to the California Department of Education Panel of Experts in May 2009 to develop professional competencies for the early care and education field.

Everett Lovelace Ed.D. (Cohort 12) is currently in his second year as Dean of Student Services at Merced College.

Ann Martin, Ed.D. (Cohort 8) is a lecturer at Chico State in the First Year Experience Program. Last year, she received a Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award for Exemplary Online Instruction.

Scott Sailor, Ed.D. (Cohort 9) was awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor at California State University, Fresno and now serves as the program director of the Bachelor's of Science in Athletic Training degree within the Department of Kinesiology. He was also recently elected to the Board of Directors for the National Athletic Trainers' Association. Dr. Sailor is the co-director of the Central California Sports Medicine Institute which provides research and education direct toward reducing youth sports injuries.

Wesley Sever, Ed.D. (Cohort 13) was presented with the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership as Principal at John S. Wash Elementary School, Sanger Unified School District.

Cynthia Shields, Ed.D. (Cohort 4) is currently serving as the Coordinator of Student Support Services in the Disability Support Office at Brookhaven College in Dallas, Texas.

Laura Tanner-McBrien (Cohort 14) is now the Coordinator for the Department of Prevention and Intervention in the Fresno Unified School District.

Ray Tjahjadi, Ed.D. (Cohort 14) was a co-presenter with Dr. Phillip Young at the 2009 CERA Annual Conference in San Francisco held November 18, 2009. The paper title was "Curriculum Is Not Forever: Adoption and Implementation of Technology at Community Colleges.

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Colleen Torgerson, Ed.D. (Cohort 4) is the Associate Dean for the Kremen School of Education and Human Development at Fresno State. In Spring 2009, Dr. Torgerson served as the interim Associate Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Studies for Fresno State as they searched for their new Provost. The following are a list of current publications:

Beare, P. & Torgerson, C. (2010). Where to Place Wally? A Special Education Due Process Case Study. *Teaching Exceptional Children Plus*, (accepted for publication, October 2009).

Torgerson, C., Macy, S., Beare, P., and Tanner, D. (2009). Fresno Assessment of Student Teachers: A Teacher Performance Assessment that Informs Practice. *Issues in Teacher Education*, 18 (1), 63-82.

Beare, P., Torgerson, C., and Creviston, C. (2008). Increasing verbal behavior by a student who is selectively mute. *Journal of Emotional and Behavior Disorders*, 16, 248-255.

Linda Vang, Ed.D. (Cohort 14) is a newly appointed board member for Healing Hope, a nonprofit organization that provides therapy and education to Southeast Asian families that experience loss and grief through divorce and other life transitions/traumas.

Jonas Vangay, Ed.D. (Cohort 3) is the Director of the International Student Services at Merced College.

Mui Vuong, Ed.D. (Cohort 13) will have her dissertation research published in the peer reviewed *Journal of College Student Development* in the January-February 2010 issue. The article is entitled "The Effects of Self Efficacy on Academic Success of First-Generation College Sophomore Students."

Susan Walsh, Ed.D. (Cohort 3) won election to the Merced City School Board (K-8) in 2007. She also sits on the Board of Directors of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce. She co-edited the recently published *League of Women Voters of Merced County Library Study "The Merced County Library Matters."* Dr. Walsh was named one of the 2009 Business Women of the Year by the Merced County Chamber of Commerce.

Bill Woolley (Cohort 15) is currently the alternative education principal for Reef-Sunset Unified School District in Avenal, California.

Kou Yang, Ed.D. (Cohort 2) co-chaired a two-day institute on Hmong/Miao studies this past summer as part of the 16th Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, which was held in Kunming, China. He also led a group of international scholars on a post-conference tour of Guizhou Hmong/Miao.

Daniel Zanutto, Ed.D. (Cohort 3) is a Full Professor of Music Education at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSU, Long Beach.

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Kendall Zoller, Ed.D. (Cohort 11) co-wrote a book with Claudette Landy. The book, *The choreography of presenting: The 7 essential abilities of effective presenters*, published by Corwin Press, will be out in February.

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Nancy Akhavan (Cohort 1) was promoted to Assistant Superintendent in Secondary Education in the Fresno Unified School District in February 2009. She also had a book published in August 2009 by Heinemann entitled "Teaching Writing in a Title I School."

Diana Banuelos (Cohort 2) has been appointed to the Community College League of California: Commission on the Future. This committee will develop the 2020 Vision for Student Success for California Community Colleges.

Ben Drati (Cohort 1) was a 2009 Fresno County Administrator of the Year Nominee.

Marc Hammack (Cohort 1) served as the Association of California School Administrators 2009 Co-Administrator for Region 9.

Adrian Ramirez (Cohort 1) received a Graduate Research Merit Award from the Division of Graduate Studies, Fresno State to support quality research in the field of education, November 2009.

Mark Sanchez (Cohort 1) received a Graduate Research Merit Award from the Division of Graduate Studies, Fresno State to support quality research in the field of education, November 2009.

Jessica Yergat (Cohort 2) is the President of the California Association of School Psychologists, Central Valley Affiliate.

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Doctoral Program Staff

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