

DOCTORAL COHORT KICKS OFF AT GVSU

The fourth cohort of the Educational Leadership doctoral program began this fall.

The program, offered at Grand Valley State University in a partnership with Eastern Michigan University, is the only doctoral program offered at GVSU.

The first cohort began in 1998. The doctoral program – tailored primarily for school administrators, principals and superintendents – allows students seven years to complete the program. So far, four have earned their Ed.D. degrees.

Dr. Lisabeth Margulus serves at GVSU's liaison for the program. The next cohort is scheduled to begin in 2006.

CONVOCATION CELEBRATES CLASSROOM SUCCESSES

The College of Education will host Convocation for fall graduates Dec. 9 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

The ceremony in the Ambassador Ballroom begins at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are required for admittance.

A total of 486 graduates for spring, summer and fall 2004 will be honored at the convocation.

The College of Education will also present three additional awards. Longtime GVSU professor Antonio Herrera, Ph.D. is the honorary Grand Marshal of Convocation and will be acknowledged for his Outstanding Service in the Field of Education. Herrera has created and coordinated a variety of graduate programs at GVSU, including Adult Secondary Education, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), International Global Education with English, History and Physics emphasis. He has also served as Chairman of the Spanish Department and has been National Chairman of the Adult Learning Division of the College Reading Association.

John Bull of Fremont High School will receive an award as Outstanding Educator. Bull completed his Bachelor of Arts degree following 12 years of active duty in the National Guard Air Force. He graduated from GVSU in 1995 and has taught social science and government at Fremont middle and high schools. His wife, Jodi, is a third grade teacher in the Newaygo Public School District.

Ron Veldman of Coopersville Public Schools will be honored as Outstanding Administrator. Veldman is principal at Coopersville High School. Under his leadership, Coopersville has undergone transformational changes, including an infusion of technology throughout the high school, development of 40 new course offerings, a focus on career pathways and educational development plans for students. It has resulted in increased test scores, higher graduation rates and more parental involvement. Coopersville High School received the Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award in the Spring of 2004.



John Shinsky and Sandra Miller coordinate calendars as part of a palm pilot 'pilot' program in the College of Education.

Education Units Preparing for NCATE

All academic units in the College of Education – Curriculum and Instruction, Foundations and Technology and Leadership and Human Services – are getting testing and assessments in order for upcoming National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and Specialized Professional Association reports.

Each unit continues to evolve as the College of Education extends its reach throughout the community, state and region.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

In Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Dorothy Armstrong and Dr. Ellen Schiller are spearheading an effort that will redesign the current master's degree offering. It will be a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction with various strands, including general elementary, differentiation, middle level general, secondary general and early childhood. It is the first major curriculum revision since 1980.

"We are incorporating a common core of three courses, and then students will select a strand and take 15 credits from that strand," according to Curriculum and Instruction Chairperson Linda McCrea.

Revisions of the elementary (undergraduate and graduate), secondary and gifted areas of related master's programs are also being explored.

Specialty Program Assessment reports for elementary, middle level, special education and early childhood levels are being updated and fine tuned for a more streamlined approach toward NCATE certification.

FOUNDATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

A climate study aimed at improving the cultural and institutional climate of the College of Education is being conducted by Dr. Faite Mack and Dr. Jung-ah Choi. They have begun researching a climate survey for students to be implemented in the 2005 winter semester. Upon successful completion of the student climate study, another survey will be designed for our faculty and staff.

Efforts are underway to design opportunities for an urban education program within the College of Education. A study and tour of the Chicago Public Schools System has been arranged.

"The intent is to offer education students a glimpse into a large urban environment and increase awareness surrounding future placements, as well as augmenting knowledge of diversity in action," according to Foundations and Technology chairperson Susan Carson.

Design collaboration is underway with the Downtown YMCA/YWCA Westminster Child Development Center to bring Education students into classrooms for interaction and learning opportunities with K-12 urban students.

LEADERSHIP & HUMAN SERVICES

Several programs have continued to grow through the Leadership and Human Services Division.

The School Counseling program, which prepares students to provide counseling services in K-12 schools, has begun with over 100 students enrolled.

The College Student Affairs Leadership (CSAL) program continues to grow and has a number of students participating in practical field experiences throughout the university.

The Special Education Teacher Preparation program has 93 students doing their Teacher Assisting in Special Education this fall. In addition, there are 66 students who are Psychology/Special Ed majors who are doing their general education student teaching this fall semester. A total of 137 students are registered to do their student teaching in the areas of Cognitive Impaired or Emotionally Impaired during the 2005 winter semester.

The Special Education Administration faculty continue to maintain strong links in the field to ensure that GVSU students are up-to-date on current changes in legislation.

"We are off to a great start for the 2004-2005 academic year," said Leadership and Human Services Chairperson John Shinsky.