Ensuring Strong Leadership For Our Nation’s Schools: Sessions Featuring Work Supported by the Wallace Foundation

As leadership preparation faculties contemplate the future of their work, they face an important challenge in providing programs that can develop leaders with the skills to support the learning of all students. In response, organizations like UCEA and the Wallace Foundation have devoted significant attention to increasing quality and innovation in leadership preparation programs in order to address this complex challenge. During the UCEA Annual Convention, two convention sessions and two workshops will showcase research and program development work commissioned by the Wallace Foundation.

Wallace Foundation: Educational Leadership Sessions

Over the past nine years, the Wallace Foundation has invested significant resources into a variety of research and leadership preparation developments across the country. Several studies have recently concluded or will be concluding, providing a rich array of insights, research findings, and program models. The following two sessions were designed to showcase work focused on educational leadership and commissioned by the Wallace Foundation.

Wallace Strand Session I: Assessing Leadership Effectiveness for Preparation Program Improvement

(Session 6 – Friday, 9:40am – 11:00am)
This session, facilitated by Professor Ellen B. Goldring, Department Chair, Educational Policy and Leadership, Vanderbilt University, will focus on assessing leadership effectiveness for the purpose of improving professional preparation. Presenters will discuss new direction in principal evaluation and its applicability to leadership preparation programs. Presenters will introduce the Vanderbilt Assessment of Leadership in Education (VAL-ED) instrument and discuss its psychometrics. Additionally, presenters will discuss the use of Val-Ed within districts and, if applicable, leadership preparation programs. Session participants include: Ellen Goldring, Vanderbilt University, VAL-ED and Xiu Cravens, Vanderbilt University.

Wallace Strand Session II: Leadership for Learning Improvement in Urban Schools

(Session 14 – Saturday, 8:10am – 9:30am)
This session, facilitated by Professor Mike Knapp, will focus on findings from Strand 1 of a 3-strand empirical research project that looks at districts undertaking serious reform initiatives. Strand 1 examines how schools are evolving new conceptions of leadership roles that distribute leadership among different school staff, including, but not limited to, the principal, to maximize support for the improvement of teaching and learning. This session will consider how urban school leaders—both those in supervisory roles and others (primarily teacher leaders) who assume full- or part-time nonsupervisory positions—work together within a demanding high-accountability environment to direct, guide, and support instructional improvement efforts. Session participants include: Mike Knapp, University of Washington; Brad Portin, University of Washington; Mark Smylie, University of Illinois at Chicago (Discussant).

For More Information, Contact UCEA at (512) 475-8592, ucea@austin.utexas.edu, or visit www.ucea.org
Wallace Foundation Workshops: Preparing Educational Leaders

A growing body of research indicates that the certain core program attributes, such as a well-defined, leadership-for-learning focus, coherence, student-centered instructional practices, a cohort structure, substantive and lengthy internships and substantive district partnerships, are more likely to result in well prepared educational leaders.

The following two workshops were designed to provide faculty-focused professional development and program focused technical assistance concerning high quality leadership preparation. The workshops feature research and programmatic work commissioned by the Wallace Foundation.

Wallace Workshop I: District-University Partnerships (Session 21 – Sunday, 8:00am -10:30 am)
This workshop session, facilitated by Professors Tricia Browne-Ferrigno and Terry Orr, focuses on models of district-university collaboration in leadership development. Model one focuses on standards. A key aspect in working together in this model is the co-construction of leadership standards that would be used for Candidate selection, curriculum development, candidate assessment and principal selection. The second model involves the co-construction and collaborative delivery of the entire leadership program. The training provided during this session will focus on what is possible, what the strengths and weaknesses of each approach are, what steps would need to be taken to initiate each model or to strengthen current partnerships to reflect either model, time will also be dedicated to overcoming common challenges and garnering institutional support.

Participants include: Tricia Browne-Ferrigno, University of Kentucky (facilitator); Terry Orr, BankStreet College (co-facilitator and participant); Model One (University and district co-construct standards) presented by: Thaddeus Dumas, University of Louisville, UCEA Institution & Lynn Wheat, Jefferson County School District. Model Two (University and district co-construct and co-deliver) presented by: Diane Rutledge, former superintendent, District 186 (Springfield School District) & Trisha Klass, chair, Educational leadership program, Illinois State University, UCEA Institution.

Wallace Workshop II: The Principals Story (Session 21 – Sunday, 10:30am -1:00 pm)
This workshop session, facilitated by Professors Gretchen Generett Givens and Ann O’Doherty, features The Principal Story, a production of Nomadic Pictures with funding from The Wallace Foundation, which portrays the challenges principals face in turning around low-performing public schools and raising student achievement. The workshop facilitators will show parts of the film and highlight how the film, film clips, the Field Guide and other resources provided on the DVD can be used in principal preparation. Participants will each receive a copy of the DVD.

To access the research highlighted in these series and other valuable resources, please visit the Wallace Foundation Knowledge Center at http://www.wallacefoundation.org/KNOWLEDGECENTER/Pages/default.aspx