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UCEA Connections is edited by Amy L. Reynolds, Angel M. Nash, and Gopal Midha, UCEA Headquarters Graduate Research Assistants

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UCEA Headquarters Updates

UCEA 2017 Convention Updates

Save the Date for the 2017 UCEA Convention in Denver!

The 31st annual UCEA Convention will be held November 15-19, 2017 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, CO. The purpose of the 2017 UCEA Convention is to engage participants in discussions about research, policy, practice and preparation in the field of education with a specific focus on
Members of the 2017 Convention Program Committee are Mariela A. Rodriguez (University of Texas-San Antonio), Erin Anderson (University of Denver), Miriam Ezzani (University of North Texas), and Cristobal Rodriguez (Howard University). The 31st Annual UCEA Convention theme, *Echando Pal'ante: School Leaders (Up)rising as Advocates and (Up)lifting Student Voices*, is intended to encourage opportunities for reflective dialogue regarding the educational contexts that students, teachers, principals, and superintendents will be facing within a changing national climate and its impact on educational policy.

- Watch the UCEA website for updates and announcements!
- Read the Call for Proposals
- Hotel reservations at the Sheraton Downtown Denver
- More about the Convention location
- UCEA Convention session types

**Important upcoming dates:**

- April 7, 2017 - Proposal submission window opens
- May 8, 2017 - (11:59 PM EST) - Proposal submission window closes
- June 1, 2017 - Convention registration opens
- November 15-16, 2017 - Graduate Student Summit and Plenum
- November 16-19, 2017 - Annual Convention

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**Support the UCEA Convention: Donors and Sponsors**

As a non-profit, UCEA relies on your support to continue providing these resources, as well as UCEA’s awards program, research initiatives, and specific graduate student mentoring and development programs and initiatives. For more information on how you and/or your institution can support UCEA programming, see [here](#).

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**2017 UCEA Graduate Student Summit**

The UCEA Graduate Student Summit (GSS) is an annual pre-conference event organized by the UCEA Graduate Student Council. Now in its sixth year, the UCEA GSS has grown each year as it has become recognized by UCEA faculty members and graduate students as a valuable developmental experience for aspiring educational leadership faculty. The purpose of the 2017 UCEA Graduate Student Summit is to provide graduate students a space to engage in authentic dialogue about their scholarly work. This summit will offer opportunities to meet and network with graduate students and faculty, to present your work and receive feedback on your research.

See the [2017 UCEA GSS Call for Proposals here](#).

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**Thinking Ahead: Apply to Become a GSC Representative**

A Call for Applications for the UCEA Graduate Student Council will be released in early March and will be due on May 8th.

Have questions? Connect with current and past UCEA GSC members at AERA or contact current members at uceagradconnex@gmail.com.

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**Call for Nominations for UCEA Awards**

**Excellence in Educational Leadership Award**

**Nominations Due: March 31st**

The UCEA Executive Committee is calling for nominees for the 20th Annual Excellence in Educational Leadership Award. Given to practicing school administrators who have made significant contributions to the improvement of administrator preparation. Plenum Representatives, or their designees at each member university, are responsible for making the award presentation at an
Exemplary Educational Leadership Preparation Award
Letter of Intent to Apply Due: May 1st
Deadline to Submit Materials: June 29th

Exemplary Educational Leadership Preparation Award, given by UCEA to a program within colleges and departments of education that demonstrates exemplary educational leadership preparation. The award is inspired by UCEA's core mission to advance the preparation and practice of educational leaders for the benefit of all children and schools, and the recipient(s) will be given a significant cash award. Please visit the specific award page for more information as the nomination requirements for this award differ from the others.

Awards given at the UCEA Convention
Nominations for each of the following are due on May 31st

Edwin M. Bridges Award, given by UCEA annually for original, outstanding work in the area of research and/or development that contributes to our knowledge and understanding of how best to prepare and support future generations of educational leaders.

The Roald F. Campbell Award, given to senior professor in recognition of his or her lifetime of excellent achievement.

The Jack A. Culbertson Award, given to a professor in the first six years of his or her career for an outstanding scholarly accomplishment or contribution.

The Master Professor Award, given to an individual faculty member whose distinguished record warrants recognition by UCEA in a significant and timely manner.

The Jay D. Scribner Mentoring Award, given to an educational leadership faculty who has made substantive contributions to the field through mentoring the next generation of scholars into roles as university research professors, while also recognizing the important role(s) mentors play in supporting and advising junior faculty.

More Updates from UCEA Headquarters

Join us for a UCEA Webinar on ESSA and School Leadership
Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2:00 PM EST
Featuring: Charles Doolittle, Team Lead for the School Leadership Program at the U.S. Department of Education

Join UCEA and Charles Doolittle, Team Lead for the School Leadership Program at the U.S. Department of Education, for a vibrant discussion about funding streams for university-based leadership preparation in ESSA. We will also discuss the new administration’s impact on ESSA implementation and school leadership broadly.

Register here, now!
See the flyer for the webinar here.

Welcome New UCEA Member:
Purdue University

UCEA is pleased to welcome a new member institution and extends our congratulations to the faculty and students in educational leadership at Purdue University. For more information on the institution, see the UCEA Review.
Congratulations to the 2017 Clark Seminar Faculty and Scholars

The Clark Seminar is co-sponsored by UCEA, Divisions A & L of AERA, and SAGE Publications. It brings together promising graduate students and distinguished faculty for 2 days of generative academic dialogue. This year's seminar will be held April 26-27, 2017 in San Antonio, TX, prior to the annual AERA conference. We are pleased to announce this year's distinguished faculty mentors and scholars selected to participate in the seminar. Congratulations!

A full list of the invited Clark Scholars can be seen here.

We are pleased to announce the following Clark Seminar faculty:

- Enrique Alemán, Jr., University of Texas at San Antonio
- Floyd D. Beachum, Lehigh University
- Michael Dantley, Miami University of Ohio
- Sara Dexter, University of Virginia
- James W. Koschoreck, Northern Kentucky University
- Colleen Larson, New York University
- Elizabeth Farley-Ripple, University of Delaware
- Sonya Douglass Horsford, Teachers College, Columbia University
- Melissa A. Martinez, Texas State University
- Morgan Polikoff, University of Southern California
- Stacey Rutledge, Florida State University
- Terah T. Venzant Chambers, Michigan State University
- Noelle Witherspoon Arnold, Ohio State University
- Irene H. Yoon, University of Utah

UCEA Research and Preparation Programs Featured in EdWeek Series on Principal Preparation

EdWeek recently released a six-part report entitled Who's Ready to Be a Principal. UCEA research is cited throughout the report. The pieces include:

- Editor's Note: Who's Ready to Be a Principal?
- New Principal Standards Catch On
- From Teacher to Principal: A Look at the Typical Pathway
- Niche Training for Principals Aims to Fill Skill Gaps
- Pressure Mounts on Higher Ed. to Improve Principal Preparation
- Principal-Preparation Programs Get Major Makeover in Illinois
- Teachers, What Makes an Ideal Principal?

New UCEA Report: UCEA Member Program Design and Practice Reflects the Best Research on High Quality Principal Preparation

A new report, A Deeper Look: INSPIRE Data Demonstrates Quality in Educational Leadership Preparation, synthesizes data drawn from a valid and reliable program evaluation survey - the INSPIRE Preparation Program Survey. The primary goal of the INSPIRE Surveys is to provide a source of data for program faculty to critically evaluate their program in order to engage in productive changes for improvement, accreditation, and stakeholder support.
Call for Book Chapters: International Perspectives on Leading Low-Performing Schools

*International Perspectives on Leading Low-Performing Schools* is the second book in the recently launched series entitled *School Turnaround and Reform*. In this volume, we seek chapter contributions that will speak to how school leaders in various countries improve low-performing schools and/or increase student achievement in those schools. Chapter contributions can be conceptual arguments, policy analyses or perspectives, research findings, or some combination of these or other ways to consider the work (i.e., we are open to considering what you want to communicate and how that is communicated). Please see the complete call for chapters here.

AERA Call for Proposals for Conferences in Education Research

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) invites proposals for conferences in education research. AERA supports research conferences intended to break new ground in substantive areas of inquiry, stimulate new lines of study on issues that have been largely unexplored, or develop innovative research methods or techniques that can contribute more generally to education research. Conferences may focus on conceptual, empirical, or methodological issues important to understanding the state of the knowledge and charting directions for future research. It is anticipated that research conferences will draw upon diverse disciplines and fields of inquiry where there is relevant scientific and scholarly expertise. The purpose of this program is to foster the accumulation of knowledge, to enhance dissemination, to encourage innovation, and to advance studies of the highest quality in education research. AERA's Research Conferences Program awards grants of up to $35,000.

The deadline for submissions for Spring 2017 is March 7, 2017. For more information or to submit a proposal, please see the Call and Guidelines for Proposals or email EdResearchConference@aera.net. Please visit the AERA website for information about previous awards.

Post-Doc Opportunity at George Washington University

The Study of School Turnaround in the Shelby County iZone, located at George Washington University, is seeking a Post Doctoral Scientist, Education. This three-year study will employ qualitative and quantitative methods to investigate the educational, political and social dimensions of school turnaround in the Shelby County iZone (Tennessee). The iZone is a special enclave within Shelby County designed to improve over twenty of the lowest performing schools in the county. The research seeks to understand the strategy crafted by district leadership, the dynamics of implementation, and the efforts of iZone leaders to cope with the challenges that high poverty environments bring to the work of school improvement. The Postdoctoral Scientist will play a leadership role in the overall study and will directly oversee case studies of up to 8 iZone schools.

Specific responsibilities include: developing interview protocol and observation instruments, overseeing data collection in schools, managing relations with school leaders, building and maintaining the project database, coordinating with the quantitative side of the work, and overseeing 2-3 graduate students that will assist with data collection and analysis. The Postdoctoral Scientist reports directly to the Principal Investigator. The position begins as early as February 1, 2017 with the possibility of extension up to January 2020. The work will necessitate travel to Tennessee 3 to 4 times per year. For questions, email Joshua Glazer at jglazer@gwu.edu; for additional details or to apply follow this link.

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowships

**Deadline to apply: March 14, 2017**

The *Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship Program* provides opportunities to doctoral candidates to engage in full-time dissertation research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies. The program is designed to deepen research knowledge of languages and cultures not generally included in U.S. curricula. More broadly, Fulbright-Hays programs aim to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through educational and cultural exchange.

Announcing the 8th New DEEL Conference
We are happy to announce the 8th New DEEL conference May 5 and 6, 2017 at Temple University.

This year’s conference marks the 101st anniversary of John Dewey’s Democracy and Education so we’re calling the conference: Dewey 101- The Meaning of Democracy and Education in a Complex, Turbulent, and Dangerous World.

See the flyer here.

**Journal Editorship Opportunity: Journal of Educational Administration (JEA)**

Applications sought for Editor or Co-Editor Team

**About the Journal**
The Journal of Educational Administration (JEA) is an established, international, refereed journal that is a leading publication in its field.

See the website for further details: [http://www.emeraldinsight.com/jea.htm](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/jea.htm)


**Dates**: March 2-3, 2017  
**Theme**: Educational Leadership for Sustainability: Current Realities, Future Possibilities  
**Location**: Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica

See the Call for Papers and Keynote Speakers here.

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**UCEA Publication Highlights**

**UCEA Review**

The NEW Winter 2017 issue of the UCEA Review is now available.

**Educational Administration Quarterly**
The NEW February 2017 issue of EAQ is now available!

- Community-Based Equity Audits: A Practical Approach for Educational Leaders to Support Equitable Community-School Improvements by Terrance L. Green
- "I Am More Than What I Look Alike": Asian American Women in Public School Administration by Jia "Grace" Liang & April L. Peters-Hawkins
- Solidifying Segregation or Promoting Diversity?: School Closure and Rezoning in an Urban District by Genevieve Siegel-Hawley, Kimberly Bridges, Thomas J. Shields

**Journal of Research on Leadership Education**
The December 2016 issue of JRLE is available.
THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL LEADER

New Principal Standards Catch On

Institutions in many states, including Missouri, Delaware, and Nebraska, are actively redesigning principal preparation programs to align with the new national standards developed and released by the National Policy Board for Educational Administration. Newly developed approaches that schools of education are implementing include devoting increased time to leading schools to be more equitable, maintaining meaningful relationships with families, and becoming effective instructional leaders in schools.

STUDENT LEARNING AND CURRICULUM

New Program Aims to Create More Uniform Standards Among Linked Learning Academies

California’s hundreds of high school career academies now have access to a certification program that was established by the Linked Learning Alliance. The non-profit organization, which consists of teachers, employers, colleges, and policy organizations, has developed standards that will help schools link their curricula to jobs in STEM areas, and while preparing students for college.

TEACHERS
Rhode Island is embarking on a statewide initiative to implement personalized learning. Leveraging its established foundation in blended learning, the state seeks to train teachers on the use of educational technology tools to provide individualized lessons that meet students’ needs. Teacher leaders are also part of the effort, as they offer immediate support to teachers in classrooms.

**RECENT RESEARCH**

**Black Students More Likely to be Arrested at School**

An analysis of U.S. Department of Education civil rights data reveals that in 43 states and the District of Columbia, Black students are arrested at school disproportionate rates. Though arrests are 0.1% (approximately 70,000 cases) of disciplinary actions taken during the analysis year (2013-14), school referrals to law enforcement reached 223,000, with Black students being overrepresented in this population as well.

**REFORM**

**Department of Education Creates New Evaluation Tool for K-12 Administrators**

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology has created a free evaluation tool for school leaders. The Ed Tech Rapid Cycle Evaluation Coach, which was developed in partnership with Mathematica, offers schools the ability to determine whether educational technology tools they have piloted are worth further investment based on the schools goals.

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**State Policy**

**WYOMING**

**Statewide education initiative for random acts of kindness**

Wyoming Governor will be signing a proclamation declaring February 12-18, 2017 Wyoming Random Acts of Kindness Week. The state is encouraging schools and communities to engage in a challenge to complete Random Acts of Kindness throughout the week. Wyoming is the only state that is doing this as a statewide initiative.

**WISCONSIN**

**USD 2 million grant to connect students to skill based education opportunities**

The three-year grant will allow Wisconsin to build on existing efforts across its 16 technical college regions to connect student interests and workforce needs. The state is one of 10 grant recipients announced by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and JPMorgan Chase.

**VERMONT**

**Continuous improvement and professional learning sessions for education leaders**

The state is planning Continuous Improvement Planning Information Sessions to be hosted by the Agency of Education’s Education Quality Assurance Team and will cover topics like Establishing a Culture for Improvement, Conducting a Comprehensive Needs Assessment and an Improvement Science Approach to Continuous Improvement. The state will also host a virtual, interactive information session on professional learning communities. It will provide further information about Collaborative Learning Groups, Vermont Stories, Self-Paced Courses, and the Digging Deep.

**INDIANA**

**Indiana Department of Education Awards more than $10 Million to 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs**
The Indiana Department of Education awarded almost USD 10 million 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grants to organizations throughout the state that provide out-of-school time enrichment programs to Indiana students. Awards range from $75,000 to $325,000.

Federal Policy

Two GOP senators to vote no on Betsy DeVos

GOP Sens. Susan Collins (Maine) and Lisa Murkowski in back-to-back speeches on the Senate floor announced Wednesday that they would oppose Betsy DeVos's nomination to be Education secretary. They are the first two Republicans to break with Trump on any of his Cabinet picks, and the votes could make it difficult for DeVos to win confirmation.

Congress Faces Range of Education Issues in Next Session

With President-elect Donald Trump waiting in the wings, the Republican majority in Congress will have the opportunity to tackle a host of education issues when its next session begins in 2017, from funding for disadvantaged and special education students and college access and affordability issues, to student-data privacy and career and technical education.

ED Department withdraws contentious proposal concerning school money

The U.S. Department of Education has withdrawn a proposal that could have fundamentally changed the flow of federal dollars to schools that serve low-income students. This puts an end to the debate about how to enforce the new law governing Title I. It says that, to get federal money, districts have to prove a few things - among them, that they're using state and local dollars to provide roughly the same services to kids in poor and non-poor schools alike.