September 2016, Volume 11, Issue 8

UCEA Connections has a new look and format!

In response to survey feedback from UCEA Connections readers this past spring we are introducing a new look and format in the current issue. The new format and aesthetic reflects renewed efforts to improve social media and web presence for UCEA and responds to interest to shifting the newsletter content into a more concise e-mail embedded format. We hope these changes make the newsletter more relevant and accessible!

Sincerely,
Amy, Angel, & Gopal

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

Included in this issue:

- Headquarters Updates
- UCEA Publication Highlights
- Research & Headlines

UCEA Headquarters Updates

UCEA 2016 Convention Updates

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 9/5 (11:59 EST) - Early bird registration ends
- 10/16 (11:59 PM EST) - Regular registration ends
- 10/26 - Convention paper upload deadline
- 11/4 (11:59 PM EST) - Late registration ends

Links to Convention Information:

- UCEA Convention 2016 page
Sponsors and Sponsorships

UCEA would like to thank the Donors and Sponsors listed below for their support of UCEA and its initiatives. Their contributions help fund incredible resources and create unforgettable experiences for the field of educational leadership. All of UCEA is grateful for your dedicated support.

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Follow this link to become a donor or sponsor!

More Updates from UCEA Headquarters

Announcing: The UCEA Program Design Network

Starting in the fall of 2016, the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) will sponsor a Program Design Network (PDN) for UCEA member institutions interested in engaging in program design, redesign, or improvement efforts. This three-year initiative is structured to engage UCEA faculty within cross-institutional teams in one of five facilitated networked improvement communities (NICs) to support efforts to engage in program design, redesign or improvement.

Specifically, this initiative will involve engage faculty teams in a process of program self-evaluation, design and development through signature learning experiences. See here for more information.

Please complete the short intake form at the link below by Monday, September 12th to indicate your interest in participation. Please note that indicating interest in the UCEA Program Design Network does not commit you specifically to attending the October 25-26 study visit at UTSA unless you choose to do so and the UTSA study visit focus aligns with your program design area. It is a general expression of interest in the program.

After receiving your expression of interest, UCEA will contact you regarding next steps and ask you to provide additional information about your program design interests. As part of your commitment to the UCEA Program Improvement/Redesign Network, we ask you to designate a team of at least two faculty members who would be involved in the network. Additionally, we ask your university to support faculty engagement, including the provision of travel support for up to two study visits over the 3-year period of the project.

Congratulations to the 2016 UCEA Award Recipients

UCEA is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2016 awards. The UCEA awards program encourages and recognizes efforts and excellence within the educational leadership community. For more information about each of the awards, follow this link.

- **Edwin M. Bridges Award**: Diana G. Pounder - University of Utah
- **Roald F. Campbell Lifetime Achievement Award**: Ellen Goldring - Vanderbilt University
- **Jack A. Culbertson**: Ann M. Ishimaru - University of Washington
- **Jay D. Scribner Mentoring Awards**: Carol Mullen - Virginia Tech
- **Master Professor**: Michael Dantley - Miami University
- **UCEA Distinguished Service**: Pamela D. Tucker - University of Virginia
Announcing the UCEA Policy Associate Program (Graduate Students)

As part of its larger work in the policy arena, UCEA will be inviting graduate students to apply to become a UCEA Policy Associate. Students will join a team of senior scholars from across UCEA institutions that are already engaged in UCEA policy efforts. In joining the UCEA policy team, the students will have the opportunity to collaborate with esteemed senior scholars to (1) track current policy efforts across the US, (2) co-author policy briefs, and (3) co-author rapid responses to recent policy reports or policy proposals. Students may also be afforded the opportunity to present at policy sessions at the annual UCEA conference and co-author journal articles with members of the UCEA policy team. More information regarding the application and expectations for the UCEA Policy Associate Program is forthcoming. Please share news of this upcoming opportunity with graduate students and their faculty mentors.

Save the Date! Clark Seminar Call for Nominations

Look for the 2017 David L. Clark Seminar Call for Nominations, coming out on September 15th! For more information on the seminar in general and past seminar agendas and participants, see here.

EAQ Call for Special Issue on ESSA

Educational Administration Quarterly issues a call for a special issue on the recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). All manuscripts will be reviewed as a cohort for this Special Issue. Manuscripts must be submitted in the window between Aug. 1, 2016, and Sept. 15, 2016, at eaq.sagepub.com. Visit the website or see the call for details.

JSL Call for Special Issue on ESSA

Each year, the Journal of School Leadership (JSL) publishes at least one special issue focusing on a particular aspect or dimension of school leadership, broadly conceived. For its 2017 special issue, JSL invites manuscripts focused on the authorization and impending implementation of the ESSA with a focus on how historic levels of social and economic inequality pose a unique challenge to school leaders charged with ensuring every student succeeds. Manuscript submissions are due by October 1, 2016. See the call for details.

The CSLEE's 2016 Values and Leadership conference

Theme: Leadership in Uncertain Times: Complex Dilemmas and Ethical Possibilities
Date: October 20-22nd, 2016 (registration closes Sept. 30, 2016)
Conference: Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre
Host: Western University
The CSLEE’s annual Values and Leadership conference is a three-day conference that promotes research and reflection on issues in values, morals, ethics, and leadership in education. We propose that ethical and moral educational leadership plays an even more heightened role in supporting civil societies following international tragedies, such as those that took place in Beirut and Paris in 2015. We seek proposals for papers, posters, symposia, and pre-conference workshops on a range of possible subjects. The deadline for proposals is June 1, 2016. Please click [http://edu.uwo.ca/cslee2016/](http://edu.uwo.ca/cslee2016/) for more information on the conference site.

**World Congress on Education - Dublin, Ireland, October 10-13**

The World Congress on Education (WCE) is an international refereed conference dedicated to the advancement of the theory and practices in education. The WCE promotes collaborative excellence between academicians and professionals from Education. Visit the website to view the Call for Papers, important dates, registration information, and program. A wide variety of topics which may be of interest to UCEA members are addressed.

**WCE-2016, Global Issues in Education and Research**

**IES Awards Low-cost, Short-duration Grants to Study Local Programs and Interventions**

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has awarded the first four grants in a new research program designed to help states and school districts evaluate the effectiveness of programs, practices, or policies being used in their schools. The low-cost, short-duration evaluations of education interventions and special education interventions are funded by IES’ National Center for Education Research (NCER) and National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER).

This grant program was launched in 2015 to support relatively quick (2 years or less) and inexpensive ($250,000 or less) evaluations to test the effects of interventions and programs that are being used to improve student outcomes. These evaluations will help states and school districts take advantage of opportunities to evaluate new policies and programs as they are rolled out and make decisions about whether to continue or expand the initiatives.

The evaluations must be carried out in a partnership between a research institution and a state or local education agency, and must meet specific and rigorous research design standards. In order to keep the costs down, the grants generally rely on existing datasets and data sources, rather than new collections. (Learn more about low-cost, short-duration grants in this [recent blog post](http://example.com).)

Learn more about the low-cost, short-duration program and the FY 2016 grantees.

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**UCEA Publication Highlights**

**Educational Administration Quarterly**

The *NEW* October 2016 issue of EAQ is now available!

- Can Professional Development Improve School Leadership?
  Results From a Randomized Control Trial Assessing the Impact of McREL's Balanced Leadership Program on Principals in Rural
Michigan Schools by Robert James Miller, Roger D. Goddard, Minjung Kim, Robin Jacob, Yvonne Goddard, and Patricia Schroeder

Gender Differences in Instructional Leadership: A Meta-Analytic Review of Studies Using the Principal Instructional Management Rating Scale by Philip Hallinger, Li Dongyu, and Wen-Chung Wang

Cultures of Learning in Effective High Schools by Ariel Tichnor-Wagner, Christopher Harrison, and Lora Cohen-Vogel

The Impact of Personal and Program Characteristics on the Placement of School Leadership Preparation Program Graduates in School Leader Positions by Edward J. Fuller, Liz Hollingworth, and Brian P. An

Teacher Trust in District Administration: A Promising Line of Inquiry by Curt M. Adams and Ryan C. Miskell

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**Journal of Research on Leadership Education**

Access the April 2016 issue of JRLE here.

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**Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership**

The *NEW* September 2016 issue of JCEL is now available!

- A Double Standard and Dubious Ethics in Determining Quality Teaching by R. Martin Reardon
- A Measure of Toxicity: The Challenge of Employee Fit in Organizational Change by Nicolas G. Mize
- Going Too Far: Sexual Assault on Campus by Sarah Marshall, Rachel Betron, Caroline Bubbers, and Melissa Keightley
- Poverty, Privilege, and Political Dynamics Within Rural School Reform:Unraveling Educational Leadership in the Invisible America by Ian M. Mette, Catharine Biddle, Sarah V. Mackenzie, and Kathy Harris-Smedberg
- You’re the New Principal? Considering First Steps Toward Improvement at Sparrow Middle School by Craig Peck and Brian Clarida
- To Plan or Not to Plan, That Is the Question by David A. Dolph

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**Browse all of UCEA’s publications**

http://www.ucea.org/resources/

**UCEA Members access journals free of charge here:**

https://members.ucea.org/member_journals

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**Research & Headlines**
THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL LEADER

**Former English learning spearheads new system for tracking students**

An elementary school principal has created a support system for English learners that has resulted in achievement gains. She reflects on the ways that her own experiences as an immigrant student influenced her approach to teach and empower students.

STUDENT LEARNING AND CURRICULUM

**Blended 2.0 shifts learning in schools**

The progress towards innovative learning models include student-directed personalized work. Schools are moving beyond blended curricular designs to authentic student engagement in technology-centered instruction.

TEACHERS

**High hopes and harsh realities: The real challenges to building a diverse teacher workforce**

A recently release Brookings Institution and National Council on Teacher Quality report highlights the systemic and cyclical challenges that are hindering progress in the diversifying of the teacher workforce. The issues affecting the problem include the college graduation rates of students, as well as the small number of students who are entering the teaching profession.

RECENT RESEARCH

**Low-income kindergartners are closing the achievement gap, reversing a decades-old trend**

Stanford University researchers report that during the time period of their study, 1998-2010, academic achievement gaps shrank 10-16%. This is a shift from the prior decades, the 1970s o the 1990s, during which the gaps grew. Parent engagement and early literacy strategies are highlighted as reasons for the recent gains.

REFORM

**Can Teach for America get more teachers to stick around in some of the nation's poorest schools?**

The Hechinger Report explains that some high turnover rates in Teach for America compound workforce turnover challenges in struggling school districts.

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STATE POLICY

**ALASKA**

**Highly Qualified teacher requirements to be repealed**

The state is considering repealing the requirement that all teachers be highly qualified but rather prove that they are capable to instruct in their content areas to align itself with new regulations set forth in the Every Student Succeeds Act.

**OKLAHOMA**
Regional road trip professional development conference for educators a success

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) successfully ended its first professional development conference for educators in a regional road trip format with over 6000 participants.

TEXAS
$116 million awarded to improve pre-K quality

Around 600 school systems across Texas will be awarded more than $116 million in grants as part of high-quality prekindergarten initiative which shows state support for all public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools seeking to expand high-quality prekindergarten programs.

VIRGINIA
State funds innovative approaches for removing barriers to early childhood education

Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), in consultation with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), will award five grants of $250,000 each to local communities that have proposed innovative approaches for making sure all children are eligible for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). These pilots propose exciting solutions to the barriers many communities face when trying to serve at-risk children.

Federal Policy

Principals want meaningful engagement in state planning

The principals’ groups are urging principals and superintendents in states that appear to be lagging to work with teachers, parents, students, and others to create their vision of what state plans should include.

U.S. Department of Education Announces $2.5 Million in Grants to Operate Centers for Parents of Children with Disabilities

The nation awarded $2.5 million in grants to operate 23 Community Parent Resource Centers in 17 states and a Parent Training and Information Center to provide parents with the training and information they need to work with professionals in meeting the early intervention and special needs of children with disabilities.

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