

2007

**Statewide Cooperative Ed.D.
Program in Educational Leadership**
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis
University of Missouri-Columbia

FACT SHEET

This interdisciplinary cohort program began in 1997 and offers a professional doctorate in educational leadership to enhance the knowledge and competencies of leaders in PK-12 and postsecondary educational organizations.

The economic impact of this program in the state of Missouri is considerable. National averages reveal that doctorate-holding citizens earn \$19,990 more annually when compared to those holding master's degrees and \$29,500 more than those with a bachelor's degree. Further, citizens with doctoral degrees are estimated to pay \$6,300 and \$9,300 more in annual taxes when compared to master's and bachelor's degree recipients respectively (College Board, College Pays, 2004). Program graduates regularly receive promotions and accompanying salary increases, which add tax revenue to the state. In addition, strong leadership improves school and college student performance and attracts new industry.

Student Characteristics:

- 221 students are active in the program as of October 2006.
- About 90 Cohort 6 students will begin coursework in Summer 2007.
- Approximately 60% of Cohort 5 students are from PK-12 and 40% are from Postsecondary Education settings.

Program Design:

Cooperating institutions include Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University, Southeast Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri, University of Missouri-Columbia, and its off-site partner University of Missouri-Rolla.

The program is delivered through face-to-face, web-based, and web-enhanced instruction at MU, participating institutions' campuses, and off-campus locations.

Faculty from MU and regional campuses collaborate as program instructors. Each regional campus has a faculty liaison responsible for program coordination on that campus.



Program Access:

Cohorts are admitted in alternate years and:

- Six cohorts will have been admitted as of April 2007.
- The newest cohort, Cohort 6, will begin coursework in summer 2007.
- Cohorts have ranged in size from 62 to 108 with the average size being 79 students.

Over the past 10 years, the program has been offered at 17 Missouri locations: Cape Girardeau, Columbia, Joplin, Kirksville, Lee's Summit, Liberty, Maryville, Park Hill, Poplar Bluff, Rolla, St. Joseph, Springfield, Trenton, Troy, Warrensburg, Wentzville, and West Plains.

In all program evaluations undertaken, students highlighted the following strengths of the program: supportive cohort structure; rigorous and integrated curriculum; program flexibility and structure; relevant and useful course content; high quality, knowledgeable, caring, and supportive faculty.

Success Indicators:

94% of all students who began the program have continued and Cohort 3 has the highest continuation rate at nearly 98%.

134 students have graduated as of September 2006 and 96% of Cohort 1 students have graduated.

In excess of 200 local, regional, and national conference presentations have been given by Ed.D. students. Many graduates have been recognized for effective leadership.

97% of students stated that they would definitely refer prospective students to the program because it is of high quality, promotes excellent leadership skills, encourages personal growth, and provides a beneficial experience in collaboration.

90% of students indicated that the program met or exceeded their expectations.

The program has been the topic of ongoing and published research that has been reported in refereed journal articles and numerous research and professional conference presentations.

90% of all students cited that the mix of students from all levels of educational leadership enriched the program by providing multiple perspectives and a broader context of educational understanding.

Ed.D. Program Leads to Promotions:

Most graduates cite skills and knowledge obtained from the Ed.D. program as factors contributing to job advancement, and:

- 45% of students reported achievement of job promotions, change in job title, new appointments, or increased responsibilities during program completion or upon graduation.

When Dr. Chris Blackburn began the program in 1999 at the Missouri State University site, she was the high school principal in Pleasant Hope, Missouri. She is currently the Superintendent for Lathrop R-II School District.

“The program focused so much on teamwork and developing those interpersonal skills that are vital if you plan on working in an administrative position in the field of education.”

Dr. Chris Blackburn

Dr. Kent Porterfield, a member of the inaugural cohort, was the Vice President for Student Affairs at Northwest Missouri State University when he began the program. He is currently the Vice President for Student Development at St. Louis University.

“The program emphasized collaborative learning; we were a learning community in the truest sense of the phrase, with faculty guiding the process and students learning with and from one another. It was among the most meaningful experiences of my professional life. I have no doubt that completing this program ultimately advanced my career.”

Dr. Kent Porterfield