Letter from the EdD Director

Dr. Jeni Hart

It is a pleasure to continue to serve as Director for the Missouri Statewide Cooperative EdD program. As many of you know, I have big shoes to fill, with Joe Donaldson’s retirement. However, I have amazing colleagues who make it all possible. Instead of my typical column updating you on changes to the EdD, ELPA, and the College of Education at Mizzou, I want to acknowledge a season of thanks (which frankly should be all seasons). I want to formally recognize and express gratitude to many of those who have an active role in the EdD program. For without them, we could not be working with our ninth cohort of talented leaders.

First, the Coordinating Committee continues to provide perspective, insight, and innovation to continuously improve the EdD program so that it is meeting the needs of leaders throughout the state of Missouri and beyond. Second, all faculty who teach, advise, mentor, and serve on committees challenge students to become leaders who are also reflective scholar-practioners, grounded in research and theory, with the goal of transforming education so that it is accessible, equitable, and socially just. Third, Jude Sommerjones, works behind the scenes (and sometimes in starring roles too) to support students throughout the entire academic process, from responding to inquiries about the program to ensuring all dissertation paperwork has been submitted, and everything in between. Fourth, Graduate Assistants, Van Nguyen, and Yangyong Ye, help us gather research on best practices in EdD education, collect and manage data about the EdD program, develop the newsletters you read, and so much more. Fifth, students and graduates of the program act as our best recruiters, and most importantly, carry out the knowledge and skills they acquire in the program in their work. Finally, Jennifer Fellabaum is the true “face” of the program. As Associate Director, she oversees much of the day-to-day operation of the program and works with me and the Coordinating Committee to envision the future of the EdD. Without her leadership, we could not advance the program as effectively and efficiently as we are able. This is truly a collaborative and cooperative program, consistent with the founders’ mission and vision, and one in which we should all be proud.
As Drs. Messner and Watson began transitioning out of their roles with the EdD Program in the spring of 2013, we asked Dr. Joe Donaldson, professor emeritus, to reflect on the many contributions of these individuals. On behalf of the Statewide Cooperative EdD Program, we thank Dr. Phil Messner and Dr. Bob Watson for their service!

Phil Messner has been a mainstay of the Statewide Cooperative EdD Program since its inception. He joined Northwest Missouri State in 1996-97 as the faculty member assigned to the EdD Program from that partner institution. I had the pleasure of working with Phil from the very beginning of the Program. He participated in the November 1996 Syllabi Writing meeting that was held on the MU Campus and he was a member of the inaugural instructional team for the first summer of instruction in 1997. Other team members included Sue Shepard, Don Keck, and yours truly. I have several really good memories of that summer and of Phil, especially. To this day members of Cohort 1 kid Phil about leaving his belt in Maryville one week and the improvisations he had to make to keep his “pants up.” I also remember the lead that Phil took in the use of technology, especially the computer, that summer. Although only 16 years ago, most members of Cohort 1 did not have email addresses and few had the experience of using personal computers for data analysis, instruction, and research. Phil was our technology guru that year and helped all of us become more competent in putting technology to use in the service of research and leadership practice.

Phil joined the Program’s Coordinating Committee (CC) shortly after that summer and remained an active member of the Coordinating Committee until his retirement. He made many valuable contributions to the Program and was steadfast in support of the Program and its purposes. I will always have fond memories of Phil, the laughs we had together and the camaraderie we shared especially that first summer as members of that four person team. I join all in wishing him a wonderful retirement.
Bob Watson is a relative youngster when defined as time spent associated with the EdD. Bob began teaching in the Program around 2006-2007 and joined the Program’s Coordinating Committee in Fall 2007. I believe I chaired the Coordinating Committee during most of Bob’s tenure on the Committee. He, like other members of the Coordinating Committee, was deeply committed to the Program and to its continual improvement. He always had the interests of students in mind with his suggestions. For example, the use of computers for the writing exercise during the admission process can be traced back to Bob’s insistence that the Program use the technology most applicants employed to write – the computer and not paper and pencil which had been the medium for the writing exercise in earlier days. I actually resisted that change because of the logistical challenges it presented. But other members of the Coordinating Committee knew that Bob was correct in his insistence and that change was made – an improvement in the admission process. I remember that Bob always seemed to come up with innovative ways to address issues – usually after some quiet and careful reflection, as well as consultation with other CC members, on how best to proceed. Bob left some indelible marks on the EdD Program and what it has become. Many of the improvements that are now taken for granted were due to Bob’s insights.
Last spring I read and heard about the changes the Hickman Mills C-1 School District was making in an attempt to provide a better education for their urban students through a sweep of all administrative positions from middle school through central office. I was intrigued to say the least, this was what my doctoral research had prepared me for: A study of the leadership processes and structures in high performing schools with a high incidence of poverty. I knew the new superintendent would be hard to impress, he was looking for specific leaders for his buildings. I was offered the position of Smith-Hale Middle School Principal in May of 2013 and have been able to see what it is like to be able to work toward transforming a low performing (in the bottom 5% in the state of Title I schools), high poverty school. I had been driven to help a school like this ever since I read the 90/90/90 research years ago, like I tell my friends, family and colleagues, we have the first two 90s, now we need the academic achievement. To have the opportunity to inspire this faculty to do the work it will take to increase academic achievement of our students is truly my passion. I have found a home in a school with dedicated colleagues who work hard every day. Our motto is “Hard work... Pays off!” And we will be the model for urban education. These two purposes for our daily journey are sure to lead to great gains and an excellent outlook for the Hickman Mills C-1 School District.

Hayet Woods, EdD
Smith-Hale Middle School, Principal

Would you like to be featured in a future newsletter? Share with us how you are using your dissertation in practice.
Joanna Anderson (Cohort 4)  
Became the President of State Fair Community College in Sedalia on July 1, 2013.

Dan Boatman (Cohort 7)  
Has accepted an elementary principal position with the Ft. Zumwalt R-II School District in O'Fallon, Missouri.

Cheryl Carpenter-Davis (Cohort 3)  
Now serves as the Dean of Instruction and Chief Academic Officer at the Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley campus.

Craig Ernstmeyer (Cohort 6)  
Recently transitioned to the Head of School at Lutheran High School of St. Charles County located in St. Peters, MO.

Leslie Galbreath (Cohort 4)  
Was promoted to the Dean of Academic & Library Services. Her role includes oversight of the Teaching & Learning Center, Freshman Seminar, TRiO, and other academic support programs, the Northwest libraries, and leading student retention efforts.

Jenn Huseman (Cohort 8)  
Has a new position with Metropolitan State University of Denver as the Clinical Education Coordinator of the Athletic Training Program in the Department of Human Performance and Sport.

Mike Jeffers (Cohort 6)  
Retired as of July 1st, 2013. He is currently working part time at NKC Schools helping with their national accreditation process.

Linda Kaiser (Cohort 3)  
Became the President of Missouri Association of School Personnel Administrators in September of 2013.

Jennifer Mast (Cohort 7)  
Became the principal at Rock Bridge High School in July of 2013.

Lance McClard (Cohort 7)  
Was promoted from assistant principal at South Elementary to principal at North Elementary in Jackson R2 School District this year.

Jason Morton (Cohort 6)  
Became an Assistant Principal at Pioneer Ridge Middle School in Independence in July of 2013.

David Schmitz (Cohort 8)  
Now serves as Director of Secondary Operations for Springfield Public Schools now.

Jeanette Westfall (Cohort 5)  
Was promoted as the Director of Curriculum in Liberty Public Schools #53 in July of 2013.
Tracie Burt (Cohort 8)
Tracie Burt, instructor in the Department of Psychology of Missouri State University, was recognized as 2013 Outstanding Advising Administrator by the National Academic Advising Association.

Cheryl Carpenter-Davis (Cohort 3)
Cheryl Carpenter-Davis, dean of instruction at Metropolitan Community College-Blue River, was a recipient of the 2013 Distinguished College Administrator Award presented by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society during its international convention in San Jose, California. She was one of 25 college administrators honored with the award, which is given to college vice presidents, deans, or leaders other than college presidents/CEOs, who have demonstrated a strong level of support for Phi Theta Kappa.

Shantel Farnan (Cohort 9)
Shantel Farnan, instructor in the Department of Professional Education of Northwest Missouri State University, received the Dean’s Faculty Award for Teaching.

Wendy Harrington (Cohort 4)
Wendy Harrington, who is CEO/President of Hannibal Regional Hospital Foundation, was recently honored in the Quincy Herald Whig – 20 Under 40 Section. Those recognized were honored for their positive contributions to the Quincy/Hannibal community.

Wayne Keene (Cohort 9)
Wayne Keene, Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Marketing at the University of Missouri, received the Provost’s Junior Faculty Teaching Award.

Samuel Martin IV (Cohort 8)
Samuel Martin IV was awarded as 2013-2015 UCEA Jackson Scholars.

Jennifer Mast (Cohort 7)
Jennifer Mast, principal at Rock Bridge High School, was named the 2013 Don Faurot Sportsperson of the Year. This award is given to an individual for outstanding contributions to the Columbia, Missouri area sporting community over a significant period of time.

Deborah Miller (Cohort 4)
Deborah Miller, Park Hill High School Assistant Principal, is the 2014 Missouri Assistant Principal of the Year.

Teresa A. Wasonga (Cohort 2)
Teresa A. Wasonga, Associate Professor, Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations, Northern Illinois University, received the Rotary International "Service above Self Award" from the northern Illinois Rotary International District 6420 for her work on helping a girls boarding high school in Kenya (Jane Adeny Memorial School).
Daisy I. Barrón Collins (Cohort 9)

Tracie Burt (Cohort 8)

Wayne Keene (Cohort 9)

Jason Morton (Cohort 6)

Bradd Anderson (Cohort 9)
Presented a pre-conference seminar on filmmaking for educators, on September 16, 2013, in Pittsburgh at the National Galaxy IV conference for Cooperative Extension professionals.

Tina Balser (Cohort 9)
Gave a presentation titled “Academic Partnerships: Move from Cooperative to Collaborative” at the ACUHO-I Living and Learning Programs Conference.

Patty Corum (Cohort 1)
Has been asked to join Assistant Commissioner Paul Katnik of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as he presents Missouri’s new teacher evaluation program to the U.S. Department of Education.

Craig Ernstmeyer (Cohort 6)
Presented his dissertation topic of administrative evaluation practices to a regional Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools (ALSS) Conference.

Stephanie Hein (Cohort 6)

Linda Kaiser (Cohort 3)
Presented with Dr. Bill Redinger at the American Association of School Personnel Administrators conference in San Antonio, Texas in October of 2013. The presentation was titled “Daring Adventures in Support Staff Professional Development.”

Michele Litchy (Cohort 4)

Tammy Allen, Scott Ammon, Amie Breshears, Brad Drace, Jennifer Husemen, Dan Jensen, and Vicki Orcutt (Cohort 8)
Had a presentation titled Higher Education’s Role in Developing Educational Professionals at The Renaissance Group’s Fall Conference on September 30, 2013.
Celebration of Excellence Award

The MU Statewide Cooperative EdD Program has received the University Professional & Continuing Education Association - Central Region 2013 Celebration of Excellence Award for Mature Programs. The faculty, staff, and students who are and have been a part of this program have made our success possible. Congratulations to all!

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Deadline for Graduate Scholarship Application

Current Students! The application deadline for graduate scholarships is March 1, 2014 (the online application process is available after January 1, 2014). There are several ELPA and College of Education scholarships available each year. A list of potential scholarships can be found online at the College of Education Graduate Scholarship website.

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May 2014 Commencement Schedule

Date: 4:00 PM Sunday, May 18
Location: Jesse Auditorium

Updated August 7, 2013 – Approved by Council of Deans

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Attention Future Graduates!

Due to the generosity of alumni, we now have some EdD regalia that can be borrowed for graduation ceremonies. We currently have one cap, two hoods, and one gown. We wanted to say thank you to both the anonymous donor and Dr. Carl Squires who received an EdD in July of 1976 from the University of Missouri. If you are interested in borrowing the regalia, please contact Jude Sommerjones at 573-884-2163 or via email at sommerjonesj@missouri.edu