



the ED LEDGER

the newsletter of the
Department of Educational Leadership
at UNC Charlotte

Welcome

Greetings,

I hope that you are enjoying an exciting fall semester! We are more than halfway through the term and I know that everyone is busy with course requirements. Do you ever find yourself so busy doing academic or professional tasks that you forget what you are working toward? I think it is easy to lose sight of the goals and to miss important moments along the way. Efforts to meet specific goals require intentionality toward an invested allocation of time while seeking to elevate your contributions in the field of education. In our program, we want to develop critical thought leaders who are capable of making data-driven decisions to address complex educational issues. That requires a combination of time and sacrifice that can be difficult to offer due to the business of our lives, thus we can sometimes lose our sense of direction due to competing priorities or life events. Those events can leave us grappling with how to move forward or feeling isolated. The faculty are available to address a number of academic concerns; however, you may find yourself in need of emotional and well-being support. Remember to contact the Center for Counseling at Psychological Services (CAPS), <https://caps.charlotte.edu/>, if you need assistance. Your overall wellness matters when it comes to meeting your goals!

Cathy Howell, Ed.D.

Ed.D. Graduate Program Director
Interim M.Ed. Higher Education Director

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Meet

Dr. Hank Harris Interim Department Chair



"Enjoy your program and do not be afraid to reach out for support when needed. The intent of the department is to help you attain your professional goals. From a societal perspective, it seems like we live in a divisive environment today- I encourage you to try to listen to views and perspectives that challenge you the most-this is how we grow. This can be quite difficult and does not necessarily indicate agreement or disagreement, but a willingness to understand"

~Dr. Hank Harris
Interim Department Chair,
Department of Educational Leadership

Dr. Harris joins the Department of Educational Leadership after 27 years of teaching in Higher Education. He obtained his M.Ed. in School Counseling from UNC Chapel Hill in 1986 followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 1996.

Throughout his time in higher education, Dr. Harris served in multiple leadership roles including Director of the Masters & Doctoral Program in CSLG and nine years as Department Chair. Prior to his arrival at UNC Charlotte in 2004, he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling & Higher Education at the University of North Texas.

Outside of his lengthy experience in education, Dr. Harris played four years of college basketball and served four years of active duty service in the United States Air Force. A few interesting facts are that he grew up on a tobacco farm, and is currently married with four adult sons.

His research interests include Career Development, Multicultural issues, and Leadership Development. Dr. Harris created two courses on military veterans that he tries to teach every other year because of the interest and need to increase the number of trained professionals. He is in the planning stage to submit a training grant that would fund 3-5 veterans annually who have an interest in becoming mental health counselors to serve military veterans, active duty members, and their families.

Stepping into this new role, Dr. Harris is most excited about the variety of programs and certificates offered by the program. He expressed that he has been impressed with the faculty & staff as they are passionate about their programs and genuinely committed to delivering quality education to students.

We are honored to have Dr. Harris as a part of our department and wish him the best as he makes a smooth transition to the department.



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Carl Westine

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?

The start of the Ph.D. in Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation (ERME) program. I have always been interested in advancing research on evaluation theories, methods, and practice. Being affiliated with a doctoral program like ERME and with other faculty and students that share the same interest seemed like the best way to fast forward that effort.

What are your favorite parts about working in Educational Leadership?

I enjoy that we have such diversity of research interests and opportunities to collaborate on different evaluation and research projects. We've got a great group in Educational Leadership that just promotes collaboration within and encourages us to continually share our expertise and learn how to support each other. To me, this really starts with our leadership. I've been so fortunate to have had fantastic leaders in the department and program. This has enabled me to form successful collaborations internally, which in turn helps us to attract partners across the college as well as external partners. Collectively, this enables us to provide meaningful research experiences for our students.

What research projects are you working on?

I've currently got a mix of applied and methodological research projects. Many share a common student success theme. For the past several years I have served as external evaluator for the State Systemic Improvement Plan, working in partnership with the NCDPI Office of Exceptional Children to improve educational outcomes of students with disabilities. I am also involved in a multi-institutional partnership working to document the experiences of minority students in mathematics doctoral programs and using these stories to challenge perspectives, change narratives, and reform practices within the mathematics community. I also work with students and colleagues to synthesize research and update practices pertaining to online learning and the evaluation of online teaching.



Hometown

Salem, Oregon

Previous Institution(s)

University of West Georgia

Research Interests

Program Evaluation and Research on Evaluation

Other Interests

Family, golf, coaching soccer, and learning to play guitar

Fun Fact

Can out drive anyone on the golf course!



Student Spotlight

Lauren Slane

What made you interested in educational leadership?

I fell into higher education and learned a lot from professional experience, but I felt like I was really missing the training in educational leadership. I wanted to better serve the students I work with, as well as to position myself get more opportunities in higher education. A couple years into working at Charlotte I explored the Educational Leadership program and it looked perfect. Now in my fourth year I can say that studying Educational Leadership has even gone beyond what I expected. It's been fantastic!

What brought you to UNC Charlotte?

My husband and I moved to Charlotte a few months after we got married. I had just worked in a graduate admissions office for a couple of years and felt that I really wanted to stay in higher education. I quickly discovered UNC Charlotte and applied to my current job and I'm still with the same department today.

What is your research focus?

My dissertation is entitled Women of Color in STEM: Navigating the Transfer Experience. I'm exploring how pre- and post-transfer women of color in STEM majors experience the transition into a university from a community college. I'm also interested in understanding how social identities inform STEM-related experiences for women in color in STEM.

Hometown

Montclair, New Jersey

Previous Institutions

Montclair State University
SIT Graduate Institute

Research Interests

Pre- and post-transfer student experiences

Other Interests

Running, traveling, exploring new culture, food, spending time with family.

Fun Fact

Peace Corps volunteer in Madagascar.



Successes & Celebrations

Qualifying Examination (Portfolio)

The qualifying examination is the first major milestone in the doctoral program. The higher education and learning, design and technology concentrations submit a portfolio that assesses student's ability to integrate and synthesize core knowledge relative to their research topic. The portfolio is submitted after completion of ADMN 8610 Interdisciplinary Seminar where a draft of the literature review is completed.



Ashley Carter

Higher Education

Dr. Ryan Miller, Chair

Dr. Cathy Howell, Member



Ryan Chester

Higher Education

Dr. Mark D'Amico, Chair

Dr. Ryan Miller, Member



Elenora (Ellie) Haag

Higher Education

Dr. Mark D'Amico, Chair

Dr. Alan Mabe, Member



Karen Ingram

Learning, Design and Technology

Dr. Ayesha Sadaf, Chair

Dr. Lisa Merriweather, Member

Successes & Celebrations

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Kim Turner

Higher Education

Dr. Ryan Miller, Chair

Dr. Cathy Howell, Member

Jamar Whitfield

Higher Education

Dr. Mark D'Amico, Chair

Dr. Carmen Serrata, Member



Tiffany Wilson

Higher Education

Dr. Mark D'Amico, Chair

Dr. Cathy Howell, Member

Kudos Corner

A space to celebrate exciting news beyond the doctoral program!

Dr. Mark Verburg

Dr. Verburg received the 2022 N4A research award for his dissertation "*NCAA TRANSFER STUDENT-ATHLETES, ATHLETIC IDENTITY, AND THE IMPACT OF COVID-19.*" This award acknowledges service professionals that promotes the dissemination of new ideas and best practices in the field to assist student-athletes across the country.

Dr. Christine Davis

Dr. Davis was selected for the 2022 class of Leadership North Carolina. She is the only UNC Charlotte representative in this year's class. <https://leadershipnc.org/leadership-north-carolina-announces-members-of-30th-class/>



Ed.D. & Ph.D. Graduate Assistants



Taniqua Canzater
Ed.D. - Higher Education

Research interest(s): Black male student-athletes at PWIs



Tynsley Gilchrist
Ed.D. - Higher Education

Research interest(s): Leadership development and community college transfer students



Lamia Nasrallah
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

Research interest(s): Emotional intelligence on first-year college students



Yi Wang
Ph.D. Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation

Research interest(s): Vertical transfer pathway from community college to a 4-year institution



Note: Featured GAs are those who receive funding through the Graduate School and not those who are in positions outside of the Department or on external grants or contracts.



Did you know???

A recent study found that anxiety and depression among graduate students have increased during the pandemic, with 40% reporting anxiety and 37% reporting major depressive disorder, increases of 13% and 19%, respectively, from the year before (Malandraki, J.B., 2021). As we approach the end of the semester, it is important to acknowledge how critical mental health is to your professional and academic success. Mental health continues to be a growing concern in education as institutions navigate innovative ways to improve mental health support on campus. As you continue your educational journey, we encourage you all to find ways that contribute positively to your mental, emotional, and social health. Most importantly, overall fulfillment. UNC Charlotte has provided many avenues that connect students to resources that holistically support their overall well-being. Below are resources that are available to graduate students that may help as you continue your academic journey.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at UNC Charlotte supports the holistic well-being and academic success of students and contributes to a healthy and inclusive campus climate. This is accomplished by providing short-term individual and group counseling, crisis management, consultation, referral services, and educational and preventive initiatives for the campus community.

Center for Integrated (CIC)

The Center for Integrated Care (CIC) is a one-stop shop for referral and linkage to wellbeing resources both on and off campus. CIC provides outreach and programming to encourage and provide more access to care for students who may be ambivalent, unsure, or do not have the desire to seek more formal wellness services.

Academic and Personal Development Workshops

The University Center for Academic Excellence offers a wide variety of workshops on topics that strengthen students' academic success. These highly interactive workshops are led by staff and trained graduate students virtually, on-site and across campus. Please visit <https://ucae.charlotte.edu/learning-strategies/workshops/workshop-calendar> for more information regarding workshop topics and registrations.

Gratitude in the Gardens

Join the College of Arts and Sciences for silent, meditative walks through the VanLandingham Glen. Led by Horticulture Technician and Facilities Specialist Jennifer Bueno, these forest strolls will include meditative prompts around the practice of gratitude. Sessions may include meditative art materials as well.



ELSO

Educational Leadership Student Organization

The mission of the ELSO is to encourage professional development and improve the experience of the COED students through initiatives that enrich the intellectual, social, and cultural aspects of their lives.

In so doing, we hope to develop a stronger community among students interested in the Department of Educational Leadership and excellence within the COED.



Interested in ELSO?

Please contact Kristin Villanueva, ELSO President,
kvillan1@unc.edu



Coffee Chat @ Thoughtful Cup



Social @ Armored Cow Brewery



Pumpkin Patch @ Hodges Family Farm

Upcoming Events

- Coffee Chat
Monday, 11/14 at 12:00 pm
COED Conference Room 259
- Write Night
Tuesday, 11/15 at 7:00 pm, Zoom ELSO
- Meeting
Wednesday, 11/30 at 4:30 pm, Zoom

Call for Service Opportunities

ELSO members value service to each other, our campus, and the surrounding community. Please reach out to ELSO leadership with service opportunities. Let's get involved!



Educational Leadership
Student Organization
UNC CHARLOTTE



Upcoming Dates

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| October 31 | Registration for Spring 2023 Begins |
| November 14 | Dissertation Defense Deadline |
| November 21 | Dissertation Submission Deadline |
| November 23-26 | November Break |
| December 7 | Final Day of Classes |
| December 8 | Reading Day |
| December 9-15 | Final Examinations |
| December 12 | Master's Thesis Defense Deadline |
| December 15 | Master's Thesis Submission Deadline |
| December 16 | Summer 2022 Classes Available |
| December 16-17 | Commencement |
| December 19 | Final Grades Due |
| December 23-30 | Winter Break |



Questions?
Ideas for a future newsletter?
Something to celebrate?
Let us know!
edld-edd@uncc.edu



© Department of Educational Leadership
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Written and Edited by
Taniqua Canzater & Tynsley Gilchrist

Coordinated by
Dr. Cathy Howell

