

News & Notes

College of Education

College of Education Professionals: Reflective, Collaborative & Transformative

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IBHE Approves New M.A. Program

The College of Education recently learned that the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has approved a new 30-credit hour Master of Arts degree program in Community and Teacher Leaders, which is tentatively scheduled to begin fall 2016. The advanced degree program has been created for those individuals currently working within or aspiring to work in community-based organizations and education systems. The aim of the program is to help students improve their leadership skills, as well as develop the knowledge, disposition, and skills necessary to be reflective, collaborative, and transformative leaders.

Students who matriculate in the program will initially begin as a co-

hort and complete a set of core courses together. Following the core courses, students will select one of two concentration options, either Community-based Leader or School-based Teacher Leader. The Community-based Leader concentration option will allow students to focus on leadership in ethical and culturally sensitive public engagement arenas, provide a foundation in the complexities of local and global communities, and help students learn how to leverage community assets to promote social justice. The School-based Teacher Leader concentration option will provide students with leadership skills necessary for mentoring and professional development, effective promotion of school culture and student learning, using

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COE Partners with Alumni Relations Office to Collect Backpacks for K-12 Students

Northeastern Illinois University's College of Education and the Office of Alumni Relations teamed up to coordinate donations for local children. More than 40 students, employees, and alum raised more than \$1,400 and collected over 100 backpacks for students from Cornerstone Community Outreach who have no permanent place to live.

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Dean's Column

Welcome to the 2015-16 academic year! A special welcome goes out to our new faculty. You can read their bios in this issue of News & Notes. It was a busy summer and we look forward to a productive year.

President Hahs has slowly been showing artists renderings of the new Education Building. It is beautiful! Unfortunately, the budget crisis in Illinois has caused Governor Rauner to freeze all capital development funds – and this means our building. We were at the point of preparing documents to send the design out for construction bids, but since everything is on hold, we wait. I am hopeful that the budget crisis will be addressed in Springfield and we will get back on track with the building.

I was delighted to host the COE Faculty Emeriti for a luncheon over the summer. It was great to get so many COE supporters together to share their most recent accomplishments, travels, and good news. Even in retirement, our colleagues continue to write books and articles, active and scholarly as ever. I'm pleased to announce a new COE scholarship that has been established by retired COE faculty. Dr. Maurice Guysenir. We so appreciate his generosity. This is an addition to a new scholarship that was established in spring of 2015 by Dr. Bernie Brommel, the Teaching as Transformation Scholarship. Bernie named this one af-

ter our conceptual framework as a testament to the work done by our incredible faculty, staff, and students!

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the faculty who served as student teaching supervisors and seminar instructors, as well as the spring 2015 student teachers, for their hard work on the edTPA pilot. As we begin this new, high-stakes assessment, we are so much better prepared because of your work. I would like to welcome Mary Bortz and Barb Mazur who have been hired into half-time positions as edTPA Coaches. They are in the office next to my new digs in Howard Bultinck's old office. Please stop by to welcome them.

We are already at work on the next issue of News & Notes, one that will contain information on new grants in the COE, including an NIH-funded expanded partnership with the Lurie Cancer Center at Northwestern University and a renewable 5-year grant aimed at addressing the shortage of rehabilitation counselors in the counseling field. There will be more information on these grants in the next issue.

I wish everyone a wonderful and productive school year! It will go by quickly.



Dr. Maureen Gillette, Dean
College of Education



(New MA Program—Continued from Page 1)

data to improve educational outcomes, and cultivating collaborative relationships with stakeholders. Regardless of the concentration option chosen, graduates of this program will also be equipped with the latest digital literacy and technology skills.

Finally, students will be able to customize their studies by selecting elective courses across all of NEIU's colleges in order to meet their academic interests and professional goals. At the conclusion of the program, students will be able to develop instructional strategies, including research, inquiry, analysis and evaluation, to lead community and education systems well into the 21st century.

"The new M.A. in Community and Teacher Leaders program embodies Northeastern's conceptual framework of reflective, collaborative, and transformative educators and its intention to work with and alongside the communities in which we serve," said Dr. Brian Schultz, Chair of the Department of Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies.

(Backpacks for K-12 Students—Continued from Page 1)

Organizers donated money, backpacks, and their time during the August 12 Back to School Bash at Cornerstone. Additional donations were collected to help support the center, as well as assist in purchasing school supplies for students.

During the Back to School Bash, College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Alberto Lopez, rallied the children with an "Education is the Answer" chant. He encouraged the preschool through 12-grade students to finish school and turn to education in challenging times.

"The COE faculty and staff are thrilled to partner with Alumni Relations to help the children at Cornerstone get off to a great start this school year. The generosity of the COE family means that the students will get to begin school with a backpack full of brand new school supplies despite the economic challenges faced by their parents. We wish every P-12 student a successful school year and helping out Cornerstone is one small thing that we can do to that end," said, Dr. Maureen Gillette, Dean of the College of Education.

Counselor Education Prepares for Accreditation Visit

The CACREP site visit team will be on the main campus from Sunday, October 25 through Wednesday, the 28th, concluding two years of work by the Department of Counselor Education faculty to prepare for the renewal of their national accreditation. Counselor Education has been [CACREP accredited since 1994](#) beginning with two programs and growing to three. Accreditation by the most important accrediting body in counselor education means that Northeastern is recognized as meeting or exceeding professional national standards.

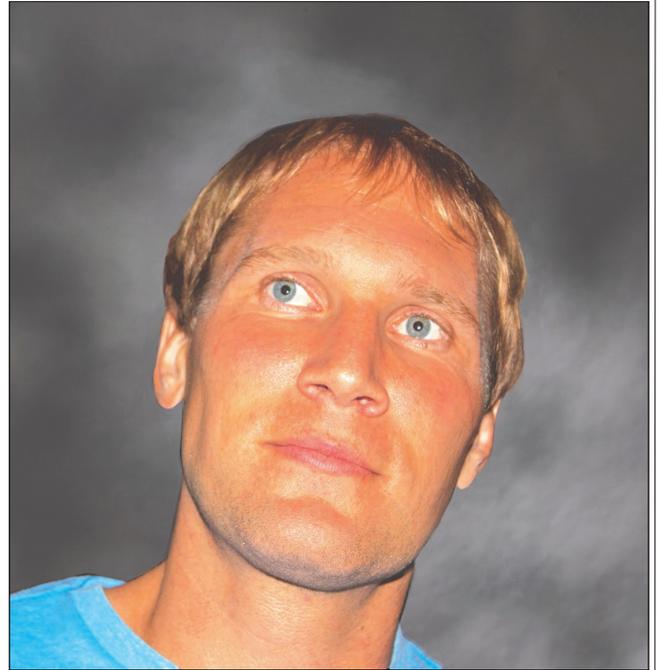
Graduates from CACREP programs have an advantage of meeting the educational requirements for professional licensure in Illinois without an audit of their degrees.



*Council for Accreditation of
Counseling & Related Educational Programs*

Meet the New Faculty

Dr. James Ball joins the COE as an Assistant Professor of Health Education in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics (HPERA). He comes to Northeastern from Colorado State University – Pueblo, where he served as Assistant Professor of Kinesiology for the last two years. Dr. Ball has peer-reviewed articles in a number of health and sport-related journals, including American Journal of Health Studies, Journal of Health and Sport Research, Recreation Sports Journal, and COAHPERD Journal. Dr. Ball completed his Ph.D. in Health Education and Promotion at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His dissertation research focused on factors affecting adoption and diffusion of distance education among university health faculty. He completed his M.S. in Recreational Management and B.S. in Health Education at the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse.



Ms. Kimberly Maljak joins the COE as an Assistant Professor of Physical Education in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics (HPERA). For the last four years, Ms. Maljak has been teaching and conducting research in the Division of Kinesiology, Health, and Sports Recreation at Wayne State University (WSU), in Detroit. She has published peer-reviewed articles in the American Journal of Health Education and Journal of Teaching in Physical Education, and has presented at national conferences on topics such as dance and sport-based physical education to physical education teachers' self-efficacy and teacher burnout. Prior to working at WSU, Ms. Maljak worked for as a physical education, dance and health (K-12) teacher for the West Bloomfield Hills School District and for the Detroit School of Arts. Ms. Maljak is in the process of completing her Ph.D. in Kinesiology (emphasis in Physical Education Pedagogy) at WSU. She completed her M.Ed. in Kinesiology at WSU. Ms. Maljak completed her B.A. in Performing Arts at Oakland University, in Rochester, Michigan.



Meet the New Faculty

This fall, Dr. Isidore Udoh joins the COE as an Assistant Professor of Health Education in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics (HPERA). Dr. Udoh comes to Northeastern after serving in Visiting Assistant Professor and Instructor roles at several universities including, DePaul University, Columbia University, University of Uyo (Nigeria, Africa), and North Dakota State University. Dr. Udoh conducts research in the areas of public health policy, global health policy, public health education, and social epidemiology. Dr. Udoh has published peer-reviewed articles in journals such as the International Journal of Health Services, Health Education Research, and Explorations in Adult Higher Education. He has also presented at conferences in the United States, Nigeria, and Mexico. Dr. Udoh completed his Ph.D. in Education (emphasis in health education) at North Dakota State University. His dissertation explored the development of a training model for HIV/AIDS prevention in Nigeria's Niger Delta. He earned an M.A. in Health Communication from DePaul University, as well as a B.Th. and B.Phil. from Pontifical Urbanian University, in Rome, Italy.



Dr. Julia Valley joins the COE as an Assistant Professor of Physical Education in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics (HPERA). Before assuming her position at Northeastern, Dr. Valley was an Assistant Professor of Kinesiology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC). At SIUC, she taught undergraduate students in physical education teacher education courses, including elementary and secondary methods, assisted in completing reports for ISBE and CAEP, and evaluated and prepared students (pilot phase) for edTPA requirements for licensure. She has co-authored articles that appear in the Journal of Teaching Physical Education and Teaching Elementary Physical Education. Prior to working at SIUC, Dr. Valley held a range of positions including student teaching supervisor, athletic director, and physical education instructor (K-12). Dr. Valley completed her Ph.D., M.S., and B.S.—all in Kinesiology—at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

October 5, 2015—The [Department of Educational Inquiry & Curriculum Studies](#) will be hosting a panel discussion on the movie **Education, Inc.**, which is a documentary on politics, money, and how these two elements are changing our schools. The event will take place on the main campus in **Alumni Hall**, from **4:15 to 7:00 p.m.** The panel discussion will include COE faculty and alumni and Dr. Bill Ayers will moderate. The discussion is **free and open to the public.**

NOVEMBER

November 3, 2015—Please join us for the **4th Annual Dr. Jean B. Carlson Memorial Lectureship.** This year's keynote speaker will be **Dr. Kevin Kumashiro.** He will discuss the topic of school reform and the implications of continually blaming school professionals for the issues faced in education today. The event will be held in **Alumni Hall**, from **4:15 to 7:00 p.m.** The lectureship is **free and open to the public.**

November 6, 2015—The Department of Counselor Education will be hosting an **information session** for prospective students. A range of topics will be covered including: admission requirements and program components, credentialing and licensing, as well as a Q & A session, among others. The information session will be held at the **El-Centro Campus**, from **6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

November 21, 2015—**Dr. Ann Aviles de Bradley (EICS)** will be a guest speaker for the FRESH AYERS speaker series. Dr. Aviles de Bradley will discuss her new book, **From Charity to Equity: Race, Homelessness & Urban Schools.** The discussion will take place at 57th Street Books, 1301 E. 57th Street, Chicago, IL. For more information on the speaker series, [please click here.](#) The discussion is **free and open to the public.**

NEIU Continues to Rank High Among Peers

In its annual publication of "Best Colleges," U.S. News & World Report recently announced that among Midwest regional universities, Northeastern Illinois University graduates its students with the least debt and is the most ethnically diverse of the public institutions in that category. For the second year in a row, Northeastern has earned the No. 1 spot for students who graduate with the least amount of debt among Midwest regional universities. Only 18 percent of Northeastern's 2014 graduating class incurred debt, and those students borrowed an average of \$13,366. The University's percentage of students incurring debt is the lowest among all regional universities in the country.

The data for the rankings were drawn from each institution's 2014 graduating class. According to U.S. News & World Report, the data include loans taken out by students from the colleges themselves, from private financial institutions, and from federal, state and local governments. Parents' loans are not included. Northeastern has been on the list of most diverse universities since 1997, the first year U.S. News & World Report established this category in its "Best Colleges" rankings. The largest minority group of students at Northeastern is Latino, and the institution was the first four-year public university in the Midwest federally designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution.

Amundsen H.S. Students Participate in Research Symposium

Amundsen H.S. students participated in Northeastern Illinois University's Faculty Research Symposium earlier this year. The students presented their final project on the theories and laws of sound and waves through the creation of musical instruments. COE faculty and Amundsen H.S. faculty continue their collaborative efforts focused on student learning and research for 2015-2016. Specifically, they will be teaching students about 3-D design and building robots.



Amundsen H.S. students stop and pose for a picture after they discussed their research project with other symposium participants.

Faculty SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Amina Chaudhri (TED) published a peer-reviewed article with Ms. Nicole Schau, a COE alum. Their article, *Imaginary Indians: Representations of Native Americans in Scholastic Reading Club*, was published in *Children's Literature in Education*. They examined Scholastic Reading Club order forms available over the course of a year. The quantitative and qualitative findings show that stereotypical misrepresentations of Native Americans persist and literature by Native authors and illustrators is lacking. To read the article, [please click here](#).

Dr. Nicole Holland (EICS), in collaboration with Dr. Raquel Farmer-Hinton (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee), were recently awarded a three-year grant through the Hymen Milgrom Supporting Organization, which funds the [Successful Pathways from School to Work research initiative](#). Drs. Holland and Farmer-Hinton's investigation seeks to enhance the college and career preparatory efforts of one small, urban school that predominately serves young women of color, many of whom are from low socioeconomic backgrounds and who may be the first in their families to pursue a college education.

In August, **Dr. Alison Dover (EICS)** published a peer-reviewed article entitled, "*Promoting Acceptance*" or "*Preparing Warrior Scholars*": *Variance in Teaching for Social Justice Vision and Praxis*, in *Equity & Excellence in Education*, 48(3). She used vignettes drawn from a recent study of secondary English Language Arts teachers to illustrate how differences in social location and sociopolitical emphasis affect teachers' approaches to justice-oriented curriculum, pedagogy, and social action. The article concludes with implications for teaching and teacher education, including strategies for using the findings in preservice classrooms. To read the article, [please click here](#).

Student SPOTLIGHT

Ashourina Hartoun (Counselor Education) was awarded a **Graduate Dean’s Research and Creative Activities (RCA) Graduate Assistantship** for the 2015-16 academic year. Ms. Hartoun’s research will explore Assyrian cultural and family histories. Her research advisor is **Dr. Laura Tejada**.

Over the summer, **Dr. Ann Aviles de Bradley** and NEIU student **Nicole Grigalunas** engaged in community activities with the Teen Living Center Drop-In center, located on Chicago’s south side. Through various workshops, they worked with participants to develop research skills, fostering an exploration into the cycle and causes of homelessness, simultaneously generating youth led solutions and community empowerment.

Bob Chikos (MA ’07 Special Education & MA ’14 School Leadership) was a participant in the discussion among Crystal Lake School District 115 stakeholders to determine if the district should keep or eliminate student class rank. [Click here for more information on the discussion and outcome of the school board vote.](#)

Cindy Salas (BA ’06 Early Childhood Education) was recently hired as the new assistant principal at Rhodes School in River Grove, IL. To review the news article on Ms. Salas, [please click here.](#)

Anna Gorbikoff (BA ’09 Spanish & Secondary Education – Spanish) was listed in Oy!Chicago’s Fourth Annual *Double Chai in the Chi: 36 Under 36* list of young Jewish movers and shakers in Chicago. [Click here to read the article.](#)

Kenny Davis (BA ’86 Secondary Education – Music) was previewed in the Delaware County, Pennsylvania Times entitled, *Classic Jazz Jam Session*. In the article, Mr. Davis noted that he discovered jazz music upon matriculating at Northeastern. To read more about Mr. Davis, [please click here.](#)

Dallas L. Browne (BA ’65 Elementary Education) was profiled by the Telegraph newspaper in Alton, IL, after releasing a new book, *Culture: The Soul of Africa and the Coming Gold Rush*. Browne stated, “[Africa is] growing a massive middle class of engineers, geologists, accountants, physicists, computer scientists, etc., who are beginning to manufacture everything we can imagine, and they desire as much as we do.” To read the newspaper coverage, [please click here.](#)

Carlos Jimenez Flores (BA ’06 Human Resource Development) was highlighted by **ABC7’s Ñ Beat** earlier this summer. The story discussed his attempt to lead change in how Hispanics are viewed in the media. The video clip can be [viewed here.](#)

Tracey Ratner (MA ’07 Gifted Education) was recently appointed principal of Longwood Elementary School in Naperville, Illinois. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Ratner was the student services coordinator at the school. Before assuming employment in District 204, she worked in Northbrook School District 28, as well as Champaign Unit School District 4. For more information, [please click here.](#)

Craig Johnson (BA ’82 Secondary Education—History) was recently appointed by Gov. Rauner as a director at the Illinois State Tollway Authority. To read the story, [please click here.](#)