

UCCS LEAD PHD E-Newsletter



Ph.D. Educational Leadership,
Research, and Policy

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

Summer 2016

Congrats to the COE 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year, Dr. Dallas Strawn!



Hello, LRF PhD Community! As we move into the fall, I am excited to share College and Department updates, news on student and alumni professional and scholarly endeavors, and important dates for the upcoming year. For the 2016-2017 academic year we have a few faculty comings and goings to share—Dr.

Winters is leaving UCCS for Boston University, Dr. Carpenter will be on a yearlong sabbatical, and I will be taking a sabbatical this fall. While I am on sabbatical, Dr. Scott will be the point person for any PhD questions or concerns. I look forward to being back spring 2017! –Dr. Sylvia Mendez

Faculty Farewell: Dr. Marcus Winters



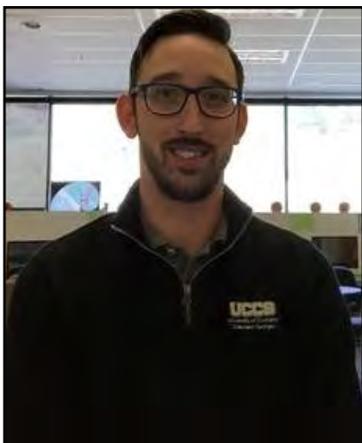
As many of you know, I have decided to leave my position at UCCS. I will be joining the faculty in the school of education at Boston University as an associate professor. I will be working in the department of Leadership and Policy Studies.

I am very excited for this new opportunity. But I will also miss working with all of you at UCCS. I've really enjoyed the freedom that I've had here to pursue my research interests. And I have had a great time teaching here, particularly in the Ph.D. program.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with you all here at UCCS. When I came here in the fall of 2010, I had never taught a class. I received a great deal of support from the rest of the faculty. And I was always pleased with the effort and talent level of our students. This position has been essential for my growth as an academic.

I wish you all – faculty, students, and staff – the very best of luck. I hope that you will keep in touch. And I'm looking forward to seeing from afar all of the great things that the department does in the future.

INCOMING PHD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SEAN DEAN



I completed my bachelor's degree in Biology and master's in Leadership with a concentration in Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE). I am currently serving as the Program Coordinator for the Math Center, a position in which I work closely with faculty and staff to support students, generally focusing on academic support programs, student development, and academic success. I will be pursuing a PhD in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy, in which I plan to research innovative and inclusive mathematics support programs. I believe that math is a critical component to a comprehensive education and it can be a huge barrier for many college students. Pursuing research on support programs that will increase student success in math provides an opportunity for me to bridge my interest in mathematics education and student support services.

SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS FROM 2016

Daniel Bowan

“Impact of an Environment-Based Education Program on Academic Achievement”

Dave Callahan

“Impact of JROTC on Educational and Socioeconomic Outcomes”

Greg Ecks

“And Still We Tinker: Incremental Policy Change through State Compulsory Attendance Laws”

Nancy Hernandez

“Latino Underrated College Graduates”

Sandy Ho

“Effect of 2012 Federal Student Financial Aid Policy Changes on Colorado Public Higher Education Student Enrollment Intensity”

Jason TerHorst

“Activity Systems: The Activities of Principals, Central Office Leaders, and School Board Members in Sustaining Innovation”

2016-2017 PHD FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES:

Sean Dean

Christina Ellis-Frischmann

MENTORED DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES:

Jason Brosseau

Bill Dallas

Oluwafolakemi Ogunbowo

Jennifer Tygret

Faculty Grant Procurement Highlights

In 2015-16, Dr. Carpenter worked on four grant-funded projects. The first was the completion of a book on occupational licensing that will be released December 13. In the second project, he worked with doctoral student Rebecca Keith examining trends in the student composition of private schools over a 20 year period. For the third project, he partnered with Dr. Winters and Dr. Clayton in ongoing research into charter schools in Denver. Finally, he joined Dr. Julaine Field and doctoral candidate John Donovan in a continuing evaluation of physical activity programs in school districts across the state of Colorado.



Additionally, Dr. Mendez and Dr. Conley (Dean of the College of Education) were awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to examine a new mentoring and advocacy-networking paradigm between underrepresented minority and emeriti faculty in the engineering professoriate. Rebecca Keith, doctoral candidate, is serving as the graduate assistant for this grant award.

2015-2016 PHD STUDENT & FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Carpenter, D. M., Birdsong, R., Tygret, J., Cathcart, K., & Kaka, S. (2016, June). Flying solo: Understanding how to help single parent undergraduates succeed. Paper presented at the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference, Portland, OR.

Kelly, C., Behrens, T., Carpenter, D., Fields, J., Sanders, T., Tucker, E., . . . Donovan, J. (2015, November). A school-based physical activity program evaluation. Paper presented at the American Evaluation Association, Chicago, IL.

Ogunbowo, O., & Bingham, A. J. (2016). Personalized learning models: Examining the perceptions and experiences of teachers. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Ramirez, A., Strawn, D., Clouse, W. & Radigan, D. (2016). The Colorado Superintendent Study, 2015. Colorado Association of School Executives, Littleton, CO.

Witkowsky, P., Mendez, S. L., Clayton, G., Ogunbowo, O., & Hernandez, N. (2016). Non-traditional student needs: Collegiate inclusion perceptions. *Journal of Continuing Higher Education*, 64(1), 30-41.

Witkowsky, P., Mendez, S. L., Morris, P., Parker, J., Kling, H., & Brosseau, J. (2016, March). Student veterans experience in a veteran's transition seminar. Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American College Personnel Association, Montreal, Canada.

Witkowsky, P., Mendez, S. L., Kumm, C., & Kling, H. (2015, October). Comparison of vet vs. non-vet orientation experience. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the NODA, Denver, CO.

CONGRATS 2016 PHD GRADUATES!



Dr. Carrie Arnold, Assistant Director of the Gateway Program Seminar and Honors Program, UCCS

“Emotional Intelligence and the 21st Century College Student: Using Emotional Intelligence as a Stimulus for First Year Student Retention”

Chair: Dr. Mendez

Dr. Daniel Bowan, Assistant Professor of Recreation and Outdoor Leadership, Colorado State University-Pueblo

“Impact of an Environment-Based Education Program on Academic Achievement”

Chair: Dr. Carpenter

Dr. Greg Ecks, Director of the Office of Student Discipline Services, Colorado Springs School District II

“And Still We Tinker: Incremental Policy Change through State Compulsory Attendance Laws”

Chair: Dr. Ramirez

Dr. Nancy Lemmond, Director of Student Support Services at the Classical Academy, Academy School District 20

“Response to Intervention: The Link between Specific Learning Disability and Special Education Services”

Chair: Dr. Ramirez

Dr. Leona Lopez, Academic Advisor for the Department of Military and Veterans Programs, Pikes Peak Community College

“The Veteran Perception: Exploring the Role of Veterans Benefits on the Transition from Service Member to Civilian”

Chair: Dr. Mendez

Dr. Greg Tate (Chaplain, Colonel, Retired), Program Director, Center for Character and Leadership Development, United States Air Force Academy

“Effects of Character Development on Fourth-Class Cadets at the United States Air Force Academy”

Chair: Dr. Mendez

Dr. John West, Director of State Authorization, Divine Mercy University

“An Analysis of Emotional Intelligence Training and Pastoral Job Satisfaction”

Chair: Dr. Mendez

Dr. Kristyn White, MBA Coordinator, Colorado State University-Pueblo

“An Evaluation of State-Level Planning Initiatives”

Chair: Dr. Harmon

ALUMNI PROFILES

Brian Burnett, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer at the University of Missouri System

Dissertation title: *Reduction in public funding for postsecondary education in Colorado from 1970 to 2010: A study documenting change and the resulting shift from public good to private good.*



I am currently serving as Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer at the University of Missouri System, in Columbia, MO. It has been a challenging time at the University of Missouri as our four campuses work to serve 77,000 students across the state in our 40 colleges and schools. Despite our challenges, state appropriations were up 4% over last year and we have nearly \$500 million in construction and renovation of facilities underway. We also had record-setting fund raising results across our system with over \$200 million in gifts and pledges last year from donors and alums. I recently finished teaching my first graduate level class as a Teaching Professor here at Mizzou in the College of Education on Budgets and Finance in Higher Education. The State Historical Society of Missouri is also an agency of the University and we are managing an exciting state building project to build the society a \$35 million Missouri History Center adjacent to the MU campus that will open in 2019. We miss seeing our Colorado and UCCS friends and colleagues as often as we used to but has been fun

getting to know the Show-Me state and its people and institutions. The people in the Midwest are friendly and many love our traveling and sightseeing tips for our home state.

Kathy Pickering, Principal, Woodmen Hills Elementary School in District 49

Dissertation Title: *An analysis of mentor-based induction program components and teachers' perceptions of improvement in teaching*



I serve as the principal at Woodmen Hills Elementary School in District 49. I have a passion for inspiring and empowering students and staff and creating a culture of life-long learning. Throughout my 13 years in education, I have had the opportunity to serve in a variety of school and district level roles. Prior to the principalship, I was an elementary assistant principal in District 20. I previously worked as a curriculum teacher on special assignment in District 49 facilitating the development of curriculum and providing professional learning opportunities for teachers.

I also served as project coordinator for a multi-million dollar Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) military math grant and was an instructional coach at the secondary level. I began my career as a math and science teacher in District 20. My formal education includes a BA in Chemistry and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction. I completed my Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy in 2013. I have presented at national and district level conferences including the Military Child Education Coalition Conference. I received district level awards including the Falcon Education Foundation-Betterment of Education Award. I also co-wrote an article that was published in the Economics of Education Review Journal.

Mike Pickering, Zone Superintendent for the POWER Zone Group, District 49

Dissertation Title: *Transformations in assessment and accountability policy in Colorado PreK-12 education: The road to linking academic growth to teacher driven formative assessment practices*



I am the Zone Superintendent for the POWER Zone group of schools in District 49. Ahead of my appointment in June 2013, I served as the curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development administrator providing the zone with the leadership needed to make significant progress with innovation initiatives in the areas of educator evaluation, curriculum design, community involvement, and the continual development of a locally created and approved zone wide accountability model.

I have a diverse range of educational leadership experiences; I served as a primary and intermediate level teacher, assistant principal and principal for District 49. My formal education includes a Bachelor of Fine Arts, a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Research and Policy. I have presented at local and state conferences and formal state level legislative meetings in the areas of innovation, quality of life indicators, program evaluation, technology, and assessment. Most recently I presented at CASE on the use of causal program evaluation using locally created random control trials as well as at the International Dyslexia Association's annual reading conference on new innovative reading programming coming out of one of POWER Zone's elementary schools.

IMPORTANT GRADUATION DATES 2016-2017

November 18: Last day for fall dissertation defense

December 16: Fall commencement at the Broadmoor World Arena

April 14: Last day for spring dissertation defense

May 12: Spring commencement at the Broadmoor World Arena



Student Travel Award Links

LRF PhD Student Travel & Dissertation Research Funding Request:

http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/coe/leadership/LRF%20PhD%20Student%20Travel_Dissertation%20Research%20Funding%20Request.pdf

UCCS Graduate School Travel Award Instructions:

[http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/graduateschool/forms/2015-16UCCS%20Travel%20Award%20Instructions\(1\).pdf](http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/graduateschool/forms/2015-16UCCS%20Travel%20Award%20Instructions(1).pdf)