

# UCCS LEAD PHD E-Newsletter



Ph.D. Educational Leadership,  
Research, and Policy

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

Summer 2017



Greetings, LRF PhD Community. As we move into 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 2017-2018 academic year I have a few faculty comings and goings to share—Dr. Ramirez retired spring 2017 but will continue to write and consult, and we are welcoming a new faculty member, Dr. Robert Mitchell, who will be joining us from the Colorado State Department of Higher Education. For students preparing for portfolio reviews this summer, please remember the due date is August 7<sup>th</sup>. As always, please feel free to contact me any time with questions or concerns. –Dr. Sylvia Mendez

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Robert Mitchell



Dr. Mitchell is joining the Leadership faculty this fall as an Assistant Professor; he received his PhD in Global Education from The Ohio State University. For the past three years he has served as the Director of Educator Preparation for the Colorado State Department of Higher Education. At his core, he considers himself to be a middle school teacher, so he is excited to return back to the classroom! Dr. Mitchell's research agenda centers on rural education, particularly how principals and superintendents in rural areas manage their unique needs of teacher shortages and high poverty amongst their schoolchildren. He also researches foundational education topics, such as citizenship development and comparative/global education. This upcoming academic year, Dr. Mitchell will be teaching LEAD 5170: Collaborative Leadership for Equity and Community Outreach, LEAD 6050: Financing Schools and Programs, and LEAD 8350: Economics of Education. Please welcome Dr. Mitchell to UCCS!

## Clyde's Cupboard Challenge Champs!

Kudos to Dr. Joe Taylor's LEAD 8250: Policy Analysis and Evaluation 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD class for contributing the most food items to the Department's annual Clyde's Cupboard Challenge. The class contributed more than 300 items to the UCCS food bank! Hats off to Matt, Terainer, Danielle, Amanda, Autumn, Carrie, Victoria, Justin, Bristole, Freddie, and Mellissa.



## Congrats to the UCCS Outstanding Instructor of the Year, Dr. Dallas Strawn!



Dr. Dallas Strawn, LRF Senior Instructor, was honored at the 2017 Campus Awards Ceremony as the 2016-2017 Outstanding Instructor of the Year! The UCCS Communique wrote—Strawn spent the past 48 years as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, assistant superintendent, superintendent, and university instructor. His philosophy, as well as his actions, embody integrity, purpose, and a desire to advance academic growth and personal development in his students. Colleagues praised Strawn’s servant leadership approach. His nomination letter included this statement, “Dallas’ rapport with his students is inspiring, always supporting, always encouraging. His knowledge and experience in education is always evident in his classes. Yet he shares his expertise with no ego. He doesn’t desire to take credit for his accomplishments even though they are amazing.”

## 2017-2018 PhD Fellowship Recipients

### **Mentored Doctoral Fellowship Awardees:**

**Terainer Brown  
Victoria Obregon**

**Please remember to look out for UCCS fellowship deadlines  
from the Graduate School in January 2018!**

## Incoming Student Spotlight: Curtis Garcia

Curtis Garcia is a Colorado native who hails from the San Luis Valley. His research interests span across K-20 education and include studying the role of teacher evaluation systems in contributing to educator effectiveness and examining the impact of culturally responsive teaching models on teacher preparation and student achievement. Curtis serves as an Assistant Professor of Teacher Education at Adams State University and has experience as a high school social studies teacher and school principal. He also serves as a Regional Specialist for the Colorado Department of Education's unit of Educator Talent. Curtis holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Yale University and a master's in education leadership from Adams State University.



## Congratulations, PhD Spring 2017 Graduates!



**Dr. Elizabeth Aragon-Blanton, Teacher, Central High School**  
Voices from the Past: A Narrative Inquiry on the Schooling Experiences of Mexican-American Children in the Arkansas Valley, 1930-1950  
Chair: Dr. Ramirez

**Dr. Scott Blum, Director of International Relations, Jeppesen**  
Aircraft Automation Policy: Implications for Aviation Safety  
Chair: Dr. Ramirez

**Dr. Maureen Breckenridge, STEM Teacher, Colorado Springs School District 11**  
Unintended Consequences: Will a New Teacher Evaluation System Lead to an Increase in Teacher Attrition  
Chair: Dr. Ramirez

**Dr. Katy Cathcart, Senior Instructor in the School of Public Affairs, UCCS**  
Adapting to the Presence of the Body-Worn Camera in Policing: A Qualitative Assessment of Officer and Citizen Perspectives on Policy and Practice  
Chair: Dr. Mendez

**Dr. Bill Dallas, Principal of Fountain Middle School, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8**  
An Evaluation of the Equity of Colorado School Finance, the Application of the Negative Factor, and the Long-Term Impacts to the Economy of Colorado  
Chair: Dr. Ramirez

**Dr. Nancy Hernandez, Scholarship Program Director, Westminster Public Schools Foundation**  
Latino/a Underrated College Graduates  
Chair: Dr. Harmon

**Dr. Sarah Kaka, Assistant Professor in the Department of Education, Ohio Wesleyan University**  
Preservice Teachers' Ability to Create a Student-Centered Environment  
Chair: Dr. Mendez

**Dr. Rebecca Keith, Department Chair for Mathematics, St. Mary's High School**  
The Cost of Inequality: The Importance of Investing in High Quality Early Childhood Education Programs  
Chair: Dr. Ramirez

**Dr. Fola Ogunbowo-Dimandja, Research Assistant, UCCS**  
We are not that Different from You: A Phenomenological Study of Undergraduate Muslim International Student Campus Experiences  
Chair: Dr. Bingham

**Dr. Jennifer Tygret, Research Assistant, UCCS**  
The Preparation and Education of First-Year Teachers: A Multiple Case Study of the Experiences and Perceptions of First-Year Teachers, Principals, and University Supervisors  
Chair: Dr. Mendez



## Recent Graduate Spotlight: Dr. Sarah Kaka



Dr. Kaka graduated spring 2017 and this fall she will be starting an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Education at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. OWU is a selective, private, undergraduate liberal arts, residential institution founded in 1842 with a total student body of 1,650. U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks OWU as one of the Top 100 “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges” in the country. Dr. Kaka will be teaching Education Foundations, Social Studies Methods, and Secondary Methods courses, and supervising students in the field. She plans to build her research agenda off of her dissertation research, which focused on pre-service teacher candidates’ ability to create a student-centered environment.

## Successful Proposals from Spring 2017

### **Jason Brosseau**

“Evaluating Leadership Influence on Military Sexual Assault Prevention Efforts: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Explain Military Court-Martial Convictions”

### **Donita Torres**

“Why Performance Pay? An Analysis of the Predictors of State Performance Pay Policy Adoption”

## Student Travel Award Links

### **LRF PhD Student Travel & Dissertation Research Funding Request**

<http://www.uccs.edu/coe/student-resource-office/department-downloads/lrf.html>

### **UCCS Graduate School Travel Award Instructions**

<http://www.uccs.edu/graduateschool/uccs-finance/finance-resources.html>

## Important Graduation Dates, 2017-2018

### **Fall Dates:**

**November 17: Last day for fall dissertation defense**

**December 15: Fall commencement at the Broadmoor World Arena**

### **Spring Dates:**

**April 13: Last day for spring dissertation defense**

**May 11: Spring commencement at the Broadmoor World Arena**





## Alumni Profiles

### **Dr. Wendi A. Clouse**

#### **Senior Research Analyst, UCCS Institutional Research**

Dissertation Title: The Effects of Non-Compulsory Freshman Seminar and Core Curriculum Completion Ratios on Post-Secondary Persistence and Baccalaureate Degree Attainment



The past few years have been rewarding and productive as I have expanded my educational foundation and am actively engaged in academic inquiry and publication. In my professional role as a senior research analyst for UCCS, I continue to provide institutional analyses and research support for both the university community and external constituencies. In my free time, I have been working in cooperation with colleagues to co-author two articles published in peer reviewed journals, complete a comprehensive state-level report for the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) on the current state of the superintendency in the State of Colorado, and finish a book chapter that is currently in revision for a new Information Age Publishing text entitled (*R*)evolutionary Superintendents. Furthermore, in July 2016, the Institute of Education Sciences recognized my dissertation work as one of 97 out of 273 studies published on First Year Experience Courses since the early 1990s that earned a review from the What Works Clearinghouse. Of the 97 studies reviewed, my work was one of four that earned a favorable rating. To round out a long-term interest in leadership studies and nonprofit sector operations, I have completed graduate certificates in both nonprofit management and public management from the School of Public Affairs at UCCS and participated as a CU System Excellence in Leadership Program Fellow. Looking ahead, my current efforts are concentrated on expanding my research agenda that will create additional opportunities to pursue publication.

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### **Dr. Nancy Lemmond**

#### **Executive Director of Individualized Education, Falcon School District 49**

Dissertation Title: Response to Intervention: The Link between Specific Learning Disability and Special Education Services



I serve the students, families, and staff of District 49 as their Executive Director of Individualized Education. The Individualized Education department houses special education, gifted education, English language development, at-risk/expelled, health services, and crisis response. Prior to July 2016, I served similar populations at The Classical Academy in District 20. Although much of my career has been focused on special education, my educational passion is for students who typically fit characteristics outside of the norm. I desire to make education accessible and valuable for all students by removing barriers. As an Innovation District, D49 allows – and encourages – leaders to problem-solve outside of the box, which is what fueled my desire to become a part of the D49 leadership team. My initiation into education started in 2000, when I began substitute teaching while living on Kwajalein in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The diversity of the population and the unique needs of the children increased my desire to pursue public education as my third career following my prior careers as an analytical sales representative for Hewlett Packard (now Agilent) and being a fulltime wife and mother. My formal education includes a BS in Chemistry and Mathematics, a MS in Special Education, a Principal license, and a Director of Special Education license. I completed my PhD in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy in May 2016. Following the publication of my dissertation, I received a pleasant surprise when I learned that my dissertation was one of three required readings for an educational leadership program! One day, I may find myself in a college classroom teaching future school leaders.

## Faculty and Student/Alumni Publications and Presentations

### **Publications**

- Behrens, T. K., Holeva, W. M., Carpenter, D. M., Tucker, E., Donovan, J., Luna, C., Field, J., Kelly, C. (2017). Intensity of commonly reported classroom-based physical activity opportunities offered in public schools. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 6, 157–161.
- Carpenter, D. M., Keith, R. S., & Catt D. (2016). *The private school landscape: The effects of school choice on student capacity and composition*. Indianapolis, IN: edChoice.
- Carpenter, D. M., & Clayton, G. (2016, November). Does common enrollment work? *Educational Leadership*, 74(3).
- Winters, M., Clayton, G., & Carpenter, D. M. (2017). Are low-performing students more likely to exit charter schools? Evidence from New York City and Denver, Colorado. *Economics of Education Review*, 56, 110-117.
- Witkowsky, P., Kumm, C., Mendez, S. L., Kling, H., Ogunbowo, O., & Morris, P. (2016). Comparing military-connected and non-military connected students' orientation experiences. *The Journal of College Orientation and Transition*, 24(1), 78-83.

### **Presentations**

- Carpenter, D. M., Keith, R. S., & Catt D. (2017, April). *What trends in private school enrollments, demographics, and infrastructure tell us about school choice policies*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Carpenter, D. M., Winters, M. A., & Clayton, G. (2017, March). *Does attending a charter school reduce the likelihood of being placed into special education? Evidence from Denver, Colorado*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Washington, DC.
- Carpenter, D. M., Winters, M. A., & Clayton, G. (2017, January). *Does attending a charter school change the likelihood of being placed into special education or being reclassified as ELL?* Paper presented at the IAFOR International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.
- Haynes, C., Gerhardt, R. A., Conley, V. M., Mendez, S. L., & Keith, R. (2017). *A mentoring paradigm for URM and emeriti engineering faculty: Does quantity of contact determine the quality of the relationship for mentees?* Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the American Society for Engineering Education Research Association, Columbus, OH.
- Haynes, C., Gerhardt, R. A., Conley, V. M., Mendez, S. L., & Keith, R. (2017). *A symbiotic solution for facilitating faculty transitions in engineering academia*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Society for Engineering Education Research Association, Columbus, OH.
- Kaka, S., Tygret, J., Cathcart, K., Carpenter, D. M. (2017, April). *Testing the efficacy of a scholarship program for single-parent undergraduates*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Mendez, S. L., Conley, V. M., Keith, R., Haynes, C., & Gerhardt, R. A. (2017). *A new mentoring and advocacy networking paradigm: Pairing URM and emeriti engineering faculty*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Winters, M. A., Carpenter, D. M., & Clayton, G. (2017, April). *Does attending a charter school reduce the likelihood of being placed into special education?* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association, San Antonio, TX.