

SPRING 2009



Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

New Horizons for Dr. Kathryn Whitaker

Dr. Kathryn Whitaker, ELPS professor since 1987, will retire May 2009. Dr. Whitaker (Kathy) received her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Vanderbilt University and served as a public school teacher and administrator prior to coming to UNC.

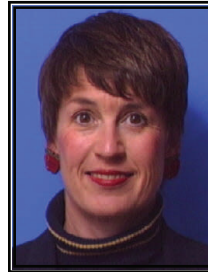
As a UNC professor, Kathy has specialized in issues related to the principalship and has taught educational leadership courses on- and off-campus throughout the state of Colorado. Kathy has published over 30 journal articles and has authored several books and book chapters. Her most recent chapter, *Challenges and Strategies for School Board Membership: Lessons from Superintendents*, was published in 2007.

Kathy has worn many hats during her tenure at UNC serving as a teacher, researcher, presenter, consultant, facilitator, trainer, evaluator, and chairperson for numerous UNC committees and for the ELPS program. Kathy has especially enjoyed serving as a research advisor to many doctoral

students. Dr. Whitaker has been recognized as a UNC Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Scholar, and Outstanding Service Provider and in 1997 was recognized as a Phi Delta Kappa University Leader for her work in exploring the changing role of the principal during a one year professional exchange as an elementary school principal.

In remembering significant experiences at UNC, Kathy recalls working with faculty to revamp the program and curriculum when the Division of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies was established. Other significant events include being a part of the Danforth Foundation Principal Leadership Network and becoming a member of the University Council for Educational Administration. During

this time Kathy also pursued her interest in perceptual psychology working with Art Combs and Ann Miser, principal at the UNC Lab School. Kathy will miss working with students and her colleagues in ELPS, CEBS, and from across the United States. Kathy plans to continue working with the ELPS Denver cohort for the next few years. However, she is looking forward to more time for tennis, golf, fly fishing, and skiing. Kathy and her husband, Monte, have a Barcelona trip planned for next fall to visit their daughter, Megan, who will participate in a semester abroad. Kathy will be greatly missed, but her legacy will live on in the many lives she has touched. A scholarship in Dr. Whitaker's name has been established and will be introduced at a retirement social in her honor April 24, Judy Farr Center, 5:00-7:00. *Contact Michael Muskin for scholarship contribution information, 351-1408 or michael.muskin@unco.edu*



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ELPS

Campus Box 103

University of Northern Colorado

Greeley, CO 80639

Phone: 970-351-2861

Fax: 970-351-3334

E-Mail: elps@unco.edu

McKee Hall Room 418

Making an Impact in Colorado School Leadership

Dr. Clifford Brookhart is in the process of starting up a new Brighton cohort in a continued UNC ELPS outreach effort to prepare educational leaders in surrounding areas. This marks the 4th ELPS cohort start-up for Dr. Brookhart in a long history of UNC ELPS leadership outreach.

The UNC ELPS program has received national recognition and, as a member of the University Council for Educational Administration, boasts an extended impact in educational leadership in the state of Colorado.

With a focus on developing educational leaders who create effective

learning environments, who impact educational policy and practice, and who model continuous learning, the UNC ELPS program promises to make an enduring difference in school leadership and student learning both locally and nationally into the 21st century.

Alumni and Student Professional Positions

Joan Bludorn, Principal, Boulder Tech High School, Boulder, CO. **Diane Lauer**, Curriculum and Instruction Director, Thompson School District, Loveland, CO. **Jeremy Voss**, Principal, Basalt Middle School, Basalt, CO. **Susan Walker**, Advanced Placement Initiative Coordinator, District Six, Greeley, CO.

Alumni and Student Highlights

Susan Walker and Laura Pearsall, Ed.D. students, presented *Barriers to Advanced Placement for Latino Students at the High School Level* at the College Board Western Regional Conference in Denver, February 24 and at the AP National Equity Colloquium in LA, March, 28.

Susan Walker, Ed.D. student, will present three papers with Dr. Spencer Weiler at the College Board Prepárate Conference in Orlando, FL April 24-26: *Barriers to Advanced Placement for Latino Students at the High School Level*; *De-segregating Re-segregation Efforts: Providing All Students Opportunities to Excel in Advanced Math Courses*; *Parent to Parent Conferencing: An Approach to Including Latino Voices in the Public School Process*.

Educational Leadership News Corner

Mary Ellen Good and Laura Pearsall were recognized as CEBS Graduate Scholars at the College Honors Convocation held on March 31. Along with many other outstanding ELPS students, doctoral students Mary Ellen and Laura have demonstrated excellence in academic achievement and scholarship as well as a strong commitment to educational leadership that promotes academic, social, and personal growth and success for all students. Mary Ellen will defend her dissertation on *Effective and Meaningful Parental Involvement: A View through the Lens of Migrant Parents* in 2009. Laura will also defend her dissertation on *Human Development in Education: Equity, Achievement, and Accountability through Human Actualization* in 2009. Post-doctorate Mary Ellen would like to work at the national level impacting policy that supports migrant students and families and Laura would like to work in educational research and development that impacts policy and practice at the local, state, and national level. Congratulations to Mary Ellen and Laura!



ELPS students, Mary Ellen Good and Laura Pearsall, recognized at the College Honors Convocation.

A new full time faculty member will join ELPS in August 2009! Final plans are underway for welcoming a new member to the UNC Educational Leadership team. Look for more details in the fall newsletter.

Greeley and Denver cohorts going strong! We wish you all continued success in your ELPS program and in your professional careers.

ELPS is accepting applications for the 2009 Ed.D. cohort! Information at www.unco.edu/cebs/elps; elps@unco.edu; 351-2861.

Important dates are available on the web: written comprehensive exams, graduation dates, summer courses, and much more!!!

Faculty Presentations

Dr. Linda Vogel, American Education Research Association (AERA), San Diego, CA, April, 2009. *Cultural Considerations in Leadership Preparation: A Critical Race Theory Analysis of Curricular Modifications in a Program for Native American School Leaders*; *Online Learning and the Oral Tradition: An Examination of the Strengths and Challenges of*



an Online Native American Leadership Preparation Program; panel discussion member for the Indigenous People of America Special Interest Group Symposium on *Preparing School Leaders for Schools that Serve Indigenous Learners: Challenges, Strategies, and Hopes*.

Dr Linda Vogel and Dr. Spencer Weiler, American Education Finance Association (AEFA), Nashville, TN, March, 2009. *Bound and Gagged: Colorado's Political and Fiscal Limita-*

tions in Responding to Educational Needs. American Education Research Association (AERA), San Diego, CA, April, 2009. *Constitutional Constraints: Colorado's Inability to Adequately Address Educational Funding Responsibilities*.

Dr. Spencer Weiler, co-presenter American Education Finance Association (AEFA), Nashville, TN, March, 2009.



Hungry Bellies and Lost Federal Dollars: The Importance of Asking the Right Questions to Ensure All Who Qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch; co-presenter College Board Prepárate Conference, Orlando, FL, April, 2009. *De-segregating Re-segregation Efforts: Providing All Students Opportunities to Excel in Advanced Math Courses*; *Parent to Parent Conferencing: An Approach to Including Latino Voices in the Public School Process*.

Faculty Publications

Weiler, S. C. & Walker, S. (in press). Desegregating re-segregation efforts: Providing all students opportunities to excel in advanced mathematics courses. *Brigham Young University Education Law Journal*.