



UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTHERN**  
**COLORADO**

Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership

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Dear HESAL community,

*Who are we as leaders? What is our calling and how do we express it within our higher education environment? What are values and how do we practice them through our teaching, research, and service? Finally, how do we assist and develop innovative answers to the big questions facing humxnity and society today?*

Increasingly, these are the questions I reflect on and seek to answer for myself and for the HESAL program more broadly. Answering these comes with increasing sense of urgency. We, as a society, have entered a time of perpetual crisis – crises of truth, morals, morale, community, safety, and climate – all immediate and far off concerns of our own mortality. Perhaps earlier generations witnessed radical, fast changes, as well. Yet, I suspect that the rate and nature of events in your lifetime has culminated in a new reality of chaos and crisis that begs for compassion and love and new ways of actions. With this as our reality, big questions about our lives and work become more pressing to me. In a time of rapid change, I often think about you all –how you must wake up to face the day, ready to learn and engage with others in our community, as well as, be able to face your own emotions about the world and events around us, locally and globally. *Who are we as leaders, then?*

The graduate professional preparation environment of today is a fundamentally different world than the one I graduated from just over a decade ago, as the world has been altered. Our changing times create new educational needs that require rethinking - I call it (un)learning - how higher education prepares (undergrad and graduate) students and what approaches faculty and practitioners use to engage all students inclusively. I wonder how you, as students, decide how you show up and choose to engage, or not, with each other and your own inner self development (self-authorship theory). I wonder how we, as faculty, integrate self-work, community development, and accountability into classroom spaces and, also, ensure that students are prepared with the needed content knowledge and competencies to be effective (and healthy) professionals upon graduation. The graduate professional prep work of today takes place at many levels simultaneously – individually through self-work, in the classroom, within the program community, in places of employment, and in the many, complex layers of personal relationships. It necessitates that we devote time to our own reflections and completeive practices. That we contemplate our values and purpose amidst our actions or inactions, individually and collectively.

**Reflection, data, and program review.** Institutions have built-in mechanisms that can promote reflection and innovation when used for said purposes. These come in the form of strategic planning at the institutional level and program review at the micro level. The program review process in higher education serves as an opportunity to pause and reflect on past and present data and experiences to make better informed decisions for the future.

With that, HESAL begins the self-study phase of our program review this fall which presents us the opportunity to reflect on values and strengths, gather feedback to (un)learn stuck patterns, and create new growth. Currently, we are reviewing institutional data and developing a plan for gathering narrative data from students and alums. Stay tuned for ways to participate and contribute. I have been looking forward to this opportunity!

**Know yourself.** Now perhaps you better understand the origin of why I am reflecting on those questions I posed at the beginning of this letter. I think about my own calling in this work that I do. For example, these newsletters help me fulfill part of my calling to share knowledge and cultivate new ideas and discussion. They are a way of publically processing my thoughts to promote communication and transparency, and to encourage innovation and self-discovery. For me, they are exercises of reflection and, also, personal and professional growth. They are part of my evolving leadership and attempts at (un)learning old paradigms and innovating newer ones that ring more true to myself. They are vulnerability as strength because the action I take with them aligns with my values.

This semester, I have engaged in posing questions to students whom I work closely with to get at some of this knowing self to change the world. I turn these to you now. I ask you:

- *What is your calling in this life/work?*
- *How do you integrate it into the professional and/or scholarly work you are choosing to engage in?*
- *What action will you take on this path of your calling?*

I believe articulating your calling allows you to take action forward that promotes change because we are true to ourselves and our purpose here in graduate education.

**Who are we, collectively?** To live a more whole, healthy life, I believe we need to know our individual and collective missions/callings and values in this life and work. If we know and stay tuned into our calling, even during busy times, then we can navigate through the emotional landscape of today's world with resolve and action-oriented mindset. For me, this is the current pedagogical challenge facing faculty across disciplines and institutions. This is the foundation that I hold as HESAL moves into program review and self-study. I ask of the collective HESAL program:

- *Who are we?*
- *What is our calling as a program in this world? What do we want our mark to be?*
- *How will we blend knowing self and learning content/competencies to innovatively answer the big questions facing humxnity and society?*

We need an (un)learning in order to innovatively design new paradigms to prepare all of us for this world we have created and wish to change. (Un)learning to create new has been on my mind lately and I hope we can continue this conversation. What can (un)learn together?

Go Bears,





## UPDATES and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **1. HESAL Faculty November Meetings – Open to All Students**

*November 7 & 21st at 12-1230 McKee 426 (conference room)*

The HESAL faculty wish to increase feedback loops and communication between students and faculty. We welcome HESAL students to the last part of our November faculty meetings November 7th and 21th from noon-1230. No need to sign up just JOIN US – ask what we are up to; offer topics and student perspectives; bring feedback to the group; share your ideas for strengthening the program and student experience!

### **2. HESAL Program Review**

As mentioned above, HESAL will be starting the self-study phase of the program review process this fall. Program reviews are excellent opportunities to reflect on mission, values, and purpose. Stayed tuned for opportunities to participate and offer feedback (survey and/or focus groups).

### **3. UNC Strategic Plan Input**

Your feedback as a graduate student at UNC is needed! If you were unable to attend Monday's town hall hosted by the President's Leadership Council to solicit feedback on a [draft 10-year vision](#) for UNC, you can provide input using the [online survey](#) until **5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18.**

### **4. HESAL will host Facebook & Instagram LIVE Recruiting**

*November 6th and December 4th 5-530pm MST*

Stay tuned – we will need your help in sharing. These will be hosted by a mix of Dr. Yakaboski, HESAL GA's and HESA student org officers. The purpose of these is to share information to prospective students about the HESAL program and applying to graduate school at UNC. If you have other recruitment ideas and suggestions, contact us directly!

### **5. Reminder: Spring 2020 schedule – registration opens Nov 11**

The Spring schedule is live on URSA –check there for dates and details. Reminders:

\*HESA 669 continues as the approved substitute for 655 which will not be scheduled this year.

\*\*HESA 797 and 799 credits will continue to be available for PHD students.

\*\*\*HESA Electives available pending enrollment numbers – sign up!

660 Womxn and gender non-binary in HESA & 695 Current Issues

### **6. Updates from YOUR HESAL Student Organization => HESA**

#### **• Careers in Student Affairs Month Roundtable**

*Wednesday, October 16th from 4pm – 5pm in UC Spruce A*

Join HESA and other various professionals around campus to hear various perspectives about being involved within the field of Student Affairs as well as their journeys into the

field. This is a great opportunity for those who are new into the field and looking for future jobs!

- **HESA Trip to Scram Acres**

*Wednesday, October 23rd at 6PM*

Join HESA in a social outing to go through Scram Acres – a Haunted Corn Maze! Tickets are \$20 and \$23 in person, however we may be looking to receive a group discount!

- **Seeking Doctoral Student**

HESA is also looking for a doctoral student who is willing to join HESA to provide a perspective on doctoral students and ensure their voice is represented within the organization and projects – if interested please email Patrick Bussiere, HESA President at [patrick.bussiere@unco.edu](mailto:patrick.bussiere@unco.edu)

- Check out **Facebook Page** for updates and events  
<https://www.facebook.com/UNCHESA/>

## 7. SAVE THE DATES reminders

- **Research Evening** will be on Tuesday, December 10th from 5-7pm.
- **HESAL End of the Semester Celebration** – December 10th, 7-9p
- **SPRING MA COMPS:**
  - Orientation for MA comps: **Jan 30** 5-530p, McKee 426
  - Exam: **Friday March 6th** in person location TBD or start of take home due by noon MST of Friday, March 13th.

Adhere to any [Graduate School deadlines for filing](#) graduation, etc

## 8. HESAL Listserv **\*\*Make sure you are subscribed to the listserv\*\***

We send out a compiled email at the end of each week with jobs, GA's, internships, and other opportunities that might be of interest to HESAL people.

## 9. HESAL Social Media

**HESAL has a new Instagram account – check us out @uncohesal**

Be sure to like our HESAL Facebook page to stay up to date on events and good news:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCBearsHESAL/>

Like and follow the HESAL Student Organization (HSO):

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCHSO/>

HESAL Twitter account: @UNCoHESAL



Happy Fall! Please reach out if you need anything!

On behalf of HESAL,

Tamara Yakaboski, Ph.D.

[pronouns: she/her/hers]

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Schedule an appointment: <https://tamarayakaboskiphd.as.me/>