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Educational Administration and Leadership  
Newsletter

Department of Educational Leadership and Higher  
Education

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Fall 2016

# Educational Administration and Leadership Newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 1

St. Cloud State University

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by Kassahun Wana

My professor, Dr. Worner, often calls them “Snippets”. They are brief extracts of a films he uses as audio-visual teaching aids to facilitate classroom teaching. A snippet takes no more than two minutes, but that makes a ton of a difference to the learner. The learners are expected to watch, analyze and relate the extract to the course in question. They are supposed to look at them differently, and to look at the light at the end of the tunnel.

It is no wonder that the classroom re-vibrates as we group ourselves to discuss our perspectives. They are an amazing tool of learning, so to speak. In one of our sessions, we had a snippet from the film, the “Caine Mutiny.” It is a mythical story about a captain who inherited a ship lacking in discipline and tried to restore order. The erratic behavior, the captain often displayed jeopardized the ship reputation and its survival as a result of which his senior officers conspired to relieve him of command. Our class reflected on the film as we related the story to leadership and it was fascinating. Issues of followership, integrity, trust and leadership in crisis were all raised and analyzed. What was most outstanding to all the groups was that the captain failed to build a trusting relationship with his subordinates, which is an important ingredient of leadership. This snippet, in a movie theatre, would have been just entertainment. In our classroom it was education in its finest form, simplicity in its finest form.

Thank You Professor Worner.

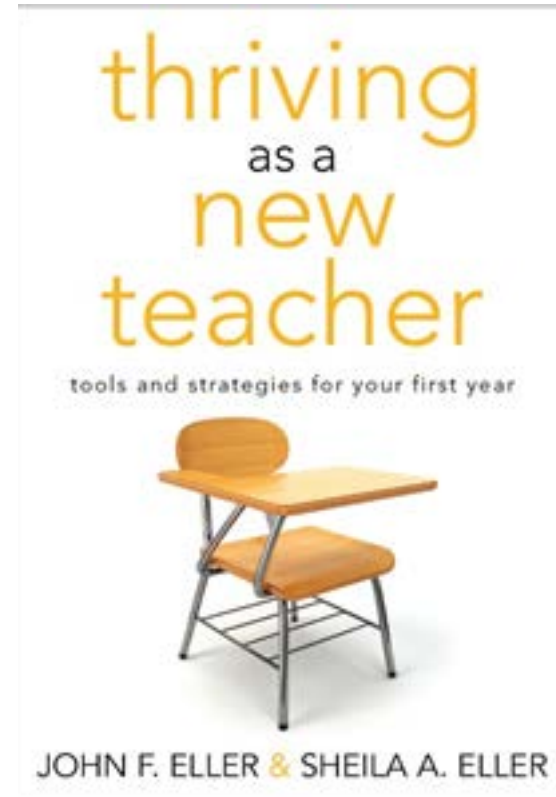
### EDAD Programs Available for You!

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE**  
Community Education Director

**MASTER OF SCIENCE**  
Educational Administration and Leadership

**Post - Master's Graduate Certificate**  
Specialist  
Doctorate

### A New Book Released by Dr. John Eller and Dr. Sheila Eller



In March of 2016, Dr. John Eller and Dr. Sheila A. Eller released a new book entitled Thriving as a New Teacher: Tools and Strategies for Your First Year published by Solution Tree Press. The book was designed to provide support and ideas to help new teachers be successful. It is based on the authors' experiences in working with and coaching new teachers to success. The book has been doing well and getting good feedback in its initial few months after its release.

### News Flash !

#### Bond Referendum in St. Cloud

Voters in St Cloud school district approved a \$104.5 million bond referendum on election night, Nov 8, 2016. The voters authorized the construction of a new technical high school but denied an upgrade to Apollo high school. The “Yes” vote authorized funds for the purchase of a school site and school facilities, including reimbursement for the acquisition of land previously purchased for the school and constructing and equipping the new technical high school facility. By voting yes on the ballot question, residents approved a property tax increase.

#### In Other News:

Minnesota students are becoming more diverse, but the teacher workforce continues to lack diversity. The 2015 MnEEP report indicated that 28% of all Minnesota K-12 public schools students are students of color yet only 4% of Minnesota's teacher workforce are teachers of color. In short, there is room for improvement.

The MnEEP document provided some recommendations for increasing the number of teachers of color including legislative policies designed to expedite the process of becoming a qualified teacher, loan forgiveness programs within the first few years of teaching, mentoring programs with veteran teachers, and professional development and advancement opportunities.

## LICENSURE COMPLETIONS FOR SPRING-SUMMER 2016

### K-12 Principal Licensure

- Abdi M Abdirizak
- Gracious Msuya
- Christian Halverson
- Mary Clarkson
- Paula Kirschenheiter
- Bethany DeCent
- Kate Hulse
- Debra Parson
- Tasha Hoiium
- Jennifer Davie
- Stephanie Diaz-Celon
- Minh Strusz
- Beth Schulz
- Sonni Sellner
- Andrew Krilly
- Nicole Lydick
- Dr. James Lehman
- Karl Nohner
- Clint Whistler
- Nancy Bonnifield
- Christopher Hanson
- Evan Ronken
- Julie Midas
- Tessa Newby
- Scott Mattis
- Kimuel Royston
- William S. Dewitt
- EmaKate Brohman
- Tanya Tacker

### Director of Special Education Licensure

- Anthony Pierce,
- Paula Kirschenheiter,
- Kate Hulse,
- Debra Parson,
- Tasha Hoiium,
- Melissa Hanson,
- Jennifer Davie,
- Stephanie Diaz-Celon,
- Sonni Sellner,
- Kris Jenkins,
- Christopher Hanson,
- Scott Mattis, and
- Tanya Tacker.

### Alternative Licensure

- Paula Kirschenheiter,
- Quyen T. Phen,
- Kate Hulse,
- Jennnifer Davie,
- Kimuel Royston

## DOCTORAL STUDENT AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



The EDAD program welcomes Cohort 8. We wish them great success in their studies at St. Cloud State University.

### Stephanie Hillman

Congratulations to Stephanie, who is a graduate of both our EDAD Masters program and our Community Education Certification program, as she has been named the new Community Education Director for the ROCORI school district. She started her new position in September 2016.

### Lori VanderHeiden

Lori became a research associate with the Minnesota Center for Reading Research last January. This is in addition to her current and long-standing position as assistant principal at Park Elementary. Great job, Lori!

### Shorena Dolaberidze

Shorena spent about four months in her native country, Georgia, and organized various activities for her community as she conducted 3 training sessions for teenagers about leadership. In total about 130 teenagers attended her leadership training program. She also conducted a workshop "Incorporating Technology into Learning and Teaching", arranged an online conference between teachers from St. Cloud and teachers from Batumi, participated in a two day training program about "Study in the US", and lastly, facilitated a workshop which was delivered by St Cloud State University student, Eu Sheng Chung, for middle school students in Batumi, Georgia regarding robotics, engineering and career opportunities. Overall, more than 250 people attended the events she organized in Batumi, Georgia. That was quite the summer, Shorena! Quite remarkable.

### Angela Schroetke

Angela started a new position in the Robbinsdale School District at the Alternative to Suspension program. She is also a recent recipient of the Eva Gadberry Scholarship an award for service in special education. Way to go, Angela!

### Ray Przekurat

Ray is the Director/Superintendent of the Wright Technical Center and Vice Chair of the Wright County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP) where he was named a 2015 Member Investor of the year because his work on CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities), a youth apprenticeship program. Well done Ray!

### Carol Kuhn

Carol is currently the headmaster of Calvary Classical Academy in St. Cloud, MN. Congratulations, Carol!

### Adory Beutal

Adory L. Beutel accepted an adjunct teaching position in the Special Education Department at St. Cloud State University this Fall. She is looking forward to working with the pre-service teacher candidates in their early field experiences.



## THE GA OF THE CENTER FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES



Pictured from left to right: Kassahun C. Wana (EDAD; Cohort 8), Ngyuen Pham (HIED; Cohort 8), Elana Black (HIED; Cohort 10) and Johnathan E. Luckey, Sr. (EDAD; Cohort 6).  
Not Pictured Krista Dillman (HIED; Cohort 10).

## MINNESOTA, NICE! by Kassahun C. Wana, MA.

I came from North of the equator - Ethiopia. I first heard about St. Cloud State University from my daughter, Sharon. She was a second year student enrolled in a pre-med program at St. Cloud State at the time. She wrote to us "this is the University I was dreaming of. It has a diverse student population with seasoned academicians and the right portfolio I was looking for. The community is friendly, welcoming and nice. They are called Minnesota - Nice. The weather is ... umm ok, I love it here and I mean I really love it, but I miss you guys, I wish you all could be here and see it for yourselves."

We are a family of four, and we always discuss and address issues of concern and relevance together. Moving to St. Cloud as a family is a once in-a-life time decision and we were set to see our daughter's wish come true. I must admit that reaching that kind of decision was not easy, but you got to do what you got to do. My wife who was living in Washington, DC, had all our paperwork ready and we drove 1,200 miles from Washington, DC to St. Cloud, Minnesota. We enjoyed the scenic beauty of the vast land mass that is the great Midwest. We set foot at St. Cloud on July 16, 2016. Sharon and her friends welcomed us and treated us like a king and queen.

We found St. Cloud to be an exceptionally beautiful city. We soon fell in love with it. The love was contagious. The people we met were friendly and went the extra mile to assist us as we settled in. Everything was as Sharon said, except that the weather was never ok. The climate was not comforting either. In the part of the world where we came from, north of the Equator, we enjoy a temperature rarely below 68F. The snow and ice in Minnesota is brutally cold but it is still a loveable place to live with a beautiful landscape in its own way.

Our honeymoon period was over in less than a month and we were back to business; our daily living. My son enrolled at St. Cloud State as a freshman, and my wife started working at a health service center. I looked for a job where I could make use of my expertise as an educator and community worker. I learned that SCSU has a thriving doctoral education program. I was fortunate enough to arrange a meeting with Dr. John Eller, the Director of the Educational Administration and Leadership program, who took the time to meet with me despite his busy schedule. He patiently listened to me talk about my quest. He then explained to me the opportunities and challenges of attending a doctoral program. I was humbled by his presence, and his words of wisdom still echo in my mind "A cohort model is a rigorous but unique and rewarding experience. It consists of very high expectations, a high level of quality skills, knowledge, and a disposition of school leaders... What more do you expect from a high level education program?" Despite all these inspiring thoughts, he finally assured me that I will not be alone as I pursue my educational goal. It was then and there that I decided to apply for the program.

I am now enrolled in the program as a member of Cohort 8. I have embarked on the journey of my life. I know that this is a demanding and challenging task, given my background where you have a school system that is structurally different from here, (one that is teacher centered and where student are not able to develop skills and knowledge to be successful in a diverse content area of education), but I also know that I am not all alone; all staff members, the faculty and SCSU community are with me. As the first woman presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said "We are stronger together..."

# GRADUATE STUDENT'S SUCCESS STORY'S

Dr. Curt Tryggestad

## 2017 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Curt Tryggestad, Superintendent of Eden Prairie Schools, has been named the 2017 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), a nonprofit member service organization representing more than 900 Minnesota educational administrators.

The award is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, front-line superintendents and pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead Minnesota's public schools. The nominees for the award are evaluated on leadership, communication, professionalism and community. This year's recipient Dr. Tryggestad, has served as superintendent of Eden Prairie Schools since 2012. As recipient of this prestigious award, he will be a candidate with other state winners for National Superintendent of the Year.

Congratulations Superintendent Tryggestad



**MASSP Winter Conference**  
**January 18-20, 2017**  
**the Double Tree Hilton**  
**7800 Normandale Blvd,**  
**Bloomington, MN**  
**952-835-7800**

# POST MASTER'S GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

## LEADERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION By DR. JANINE DAHMS-WALKER

Recipients of the St. Cloud State EDAD Post Master's Graduate Certificate for Directors of Special Education (Masters plus 30 credits) are being recognized statewide for their leadership skills and potential to influence education for students with special needs. Past and present award winners are well represented by graduates of our program for multiple awards and scholarships.

The Minnesota Administrators of Special Education (MASE) is committed to mentoring, encouraging and recognizing new leaders in the field of special education. The New Leader of Excellence award is granted annually to a new leader who exhibits the leadership excellence required to be effective in challenging times. These skills include a willingness to risk, an ability to collaborate, skills in listening and communicating, and a broad understanding of the educational system. This award is given to a new leader in special education administration who has demonstrated passion and commitment to shaping policies and practices which impact the quality of education for students with disabilities. Recipients must have five or less years of administrative experience in their current positions. Graduates of the program have been chosen for this honor every year since the beginning of the award in 2011.

Considering there are over nine higher education institutions' programs that offer the director of special education license, it is a reflection of the exceptional quality of our students that all winners have been graduates of SCSU.

**Dianne McCarron**, received the 2014 New Leader of Excellence Award from Minnesota Administrators of Special Education. McCarron is an exceptional director of special education serving 15 districts in the SW/WC Service Cooperative. She holds leadership positions on the MASE Board and is chair of the MN Special Education Advisory Council.

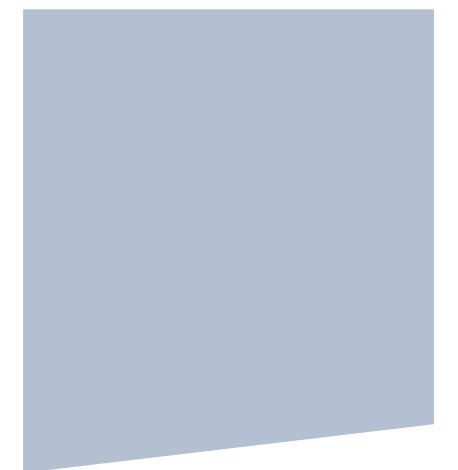
## RECENT ST. CLOUD STATE GRADUATE WINNERS OF THE NEW LEADER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

**2013 Dr. Mary Clarkson**  
Former Director of Special Education of Anoka Schools currently director in Richfield MN, adjunct professor for EDAD.

**2012 Tammy Stahl,**  
Director of Special Education for 18 districts in the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

**2011 Dr. Reggie Engebretson**  
Director of Special Education for 11 districts, Northland Special Education Cooperative, Virginia MN

**Congratulations to all four winners of the New Leader of Excellence Award.**





# Stenswick-Benson Scholarship Recipients

## DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION GRADUATES AWARDED THE SCHOLARSHIP

SCSU Director of Special Education graduates have been selected to receive the \$2,000 Stenswick-Benson Scholarship through MASE. The Stenswick-Benson scholarship fund was created in 1991 in memory of two Minnesota Directors of Special Education: Ellsworth Stenswick from Bloomington and Loren Benson from Hopkins. Both were considered pioneers in the field of special education.

These fine colleagues and their families wanted to make lasting contributions to the field of special education by starting a fund to support aspiring leaders. The scholarship fund started with a \$4,500 contribution from family and friends of Ellsworth and Loren and an additional contribution from the Huestad Foundation. The fund has grown to more than \$150,000 as a result of biannual fundraisers during the MASE Fall Leadership Conference. Scholarships are awarded to individuals completing exemplary graduate studies in the field of special education director licensure at a Minnesota public college or university. All alumni listed below completed their director of special education licensure at SCSU. Generally, four scholarships are awarded each year.



*Melissa Hanson  
2016 Scholarship Recipient*

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS THROUGH THE YEARS CONGRATULATIONS!!!

**2016 Scholarship Recipient:**  
**Melissa Hanson** (Supervisor/  
Coordinator of Special Education,  
Southwest/West Central Service  
Cooperative)

**2014 Scholarship Recipients:**  
**Tanya Tacker** (SPED Supervisor,  
Rum River Cooperative)

**2013 Scholarship Recipients:**  
**Deanna Lawrence:** (SPED  
Supervisor, St Louis Park Schools)

**2012 Scholarship Recipients:**  
**Dr. Sarah Brown:** (Former Unique  
Learners Manager, St. Croix River  
Education District; Currently  
Bureau Chief, Learner Strategies and  
Supports at the Iowa Dept. Ed).

**Jackie Budden:** (Assistant Director  
of Special Education, Marshall  
Public Schools)

**Jackie Budden:** (Assistant Director  
of Special Education, Marshall  
Public Schools)

**Christine Tangen:** (Lead Special  
Education Teacher, Brainerd High  
School).

**2011 Scholarship Recipients:**  
**Susan Currens:** (Early Intervention  
Supervisor/Special Education  
Coordinator, Benton Stearns  
Education District).

**Erin Dohrmann:**  
(Administrative Coordinator,  
Rum River Special Education  
Cooperative).

# Dissertation Proposals

## PROPOSALS

### Chris Fenske

Chris' topic examines how teacher perceptions of school associated factors contribute to attrition/retention in Southwest Minnesota schools.

### Brenda Frie

Brenda's research focuses on how healthcare students decide to participate in honors courses.

### Joel Traver

Joel's research focus is Examining the Relationship between edTPA and First Year Teaching Quality.

### Sarah Papineau

Topic unknown

### Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock

Cindy's research focus is Leadership for Educational Equity.

### Randy Smasal

Randy is researching The Impact of Exercise on Executive Function in Pre-adolescent Children.

### Nels Onstad

Nels' research focus is on Principal Perceptions of Classroom Management Skills of Nonlicensed Concepts.

### Nicole Rittenour

Nicole's research focus is on Professional Learning Communities for Secondary Principals.

## SPRING -2016

### GRADUATION DEADLINES

**Apply for Spring Graduation Date:**  
September 9, 2016

**Final Defense Completion:**  
November 20, 2016

**Submit Dissertation for Format Review:**  
December 4, 2016

**Commencement Ceremony:**  
December 16, 2016

# Student and Faculty Updates

## DISSERTATION FINAL DEFENSES-FALL 2016

- **Melissa Tellinghuisen**

Melissa's dissertation researched Barriers, Strategies, and Professional Development in addressing reading deficiencies displayed by struggling pre-kindergarten to second grade students. Congratulations, Melissa (aka Missy)!

- **Amy Denneson**

Amy's research focused on The Impact of Mentorship on Women Superintendents. Amy is currently the Principal and Director of Teaching and Learning for the Rockford Area Schools.

- **Beth Bergren-Mann**

The topic of Beth's research is An Evaluation of Novice Teachers' Perceptions Regarding Teacher Induction and Teacher Leadership.

- **Judy Beaton**

Judy's research focused on the Impact of Media Culture on Influence, Tenure, and Professional Aspirations of the School Superintendent.

- **Mike Favor**

Mike's research focused on Mentorship of Select African American School Administrators.

## Calendar of Events

### 2017 Symposium of Women K-12 Educational Leaders

Tuesday, April 25

9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

TIES Conference Center

1640 Larpenteur Avenue West

St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Join women educational leaders for the Symposium of Women Educational Leaders.

In its fifth year, the event will connect educational leaders with one another and with keynote speakers. Consider bringing a guest who demonstrates potential for leadership.

## SPRING-2017 CALNDER EVENTS

### MESPA Institute 2017

February 1-3, 2017

Bloomington, MN

DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington, 7800 Normandale Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55439

## Editors:

Johnathan E. Luckey Sr.  
Kassahun Wana

# Congratulations Graduates of 2016!



## Spring 2016 Doctoral Graduates

**Trish Perry:** A Study of Principal Stress Factors and Coping Strategies

**Nate Rudolph:** Examining How Principals are Using Social Network Sites for Professional Development

**Jim Johnson:** PLC Practices in Public Schools in Minnesota

**Kim Hiel:** Influence of Society's Perceptions and Stereotypes on African American Women and its impact on African American Women Principal's Leadership Practices



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