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A New Graduate Center at Plymouth

St. Cloud State University opened a graduate center in a new facility located near the intersection of U.S. Highway 169 and Rockford Road, Plymouth. The center was opened following the closing of the Twin Cities' Graduate Center in Maple Grove. The facility provides a new focal point for SCSU and was deliberately designed to promote a welcoming environment and collaborative learning. The facility offers state-of-the-art technology, a new auditorium, a student lounge and breakout sessions. All students will find crucial resources in this facility including professional training rooms, and Wi-Fi.

The facility opened January 9, 2017 and accommodates academic graduate programs including business administration, engineering management, educational administration, applied clinical research, regulatory affairs and services and medical technology quality.

Read more and view photo gallery:

<http://today.stcloudstate.edu/students-begin-classes-at-st-cloud-state-at-plymouth>

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Dr. John Eller Starts Leadership Improvement Project for Principals in Chile



From January 9-13, the University of Concepcion hosted its first project on data use and decision making for school leaders in Chile. Dr. John Eller, professor of Educational Administration and Leadership Program at St. Cloud State University, traveled to Concepcion, Chile to work with principals from the region to improve their leadership skills.

Dr. Eller conducted a 3-day seminar entitled, "Data Use and Decision-making" for a group of approximately 20 principals and graduate students who were hosted by the leadership Program at the University of Concepcion & leadership program.

On January 12 and 13, Eller visited schools in the region, assisted these schools in starting to use student achievement data, and was involved

in planning future elements of the school leadership development program at the University of Concepcion.

The project on which Dr. Eller worked during his visit to Chile is supported by Chilean government. The Chilean government is attempting to improve schools and school leadership throughout the country. This project is the culmination of 3 years of planning and was rated by the participants as exceptional and helpful to their work as school leaders. In addition to the initial seminar.

Dr. Eller is working to coordinate opportunities for some of the principals to visit schools in Minnesota and shadow area principals to learn how they lead and use data in their decision-making. Dr. John Eller and professors from the University of Concepcion are identifying a timeline for these visits. After the principals visit, they will enter into a long-range mentoring relationship with their Minnesota mentors.

The SCSU Educational Administration and Leadership Program is looking forward to this exciting program and opportunities it will provide to both Chilean and Minnesota princi-

pals! The University of Concepcion is the third oldest and one of the most prestigious universities in Chile.

The University is a coeducational higher education institution and offers courses and programs leading to officially recognized higher education degrees such as bachelors, Masters and doctorate degrees in several areas of study.

Do you have an interesting story or idea?

**Contact:
edadga1@stcloudstate.edu**

SYMPOSIUM OF WOMEN EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

CELEBRATING SUCCESS, EXPLORING THE FUTURE



The Symposium of Women K-12 Educational Leaders (SWEL) was held on April 25, 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the TIES Conference Center (1640 Larpenteur Avenue West-St. Paul, Minnesota). Over 200 Minnesota leaders and aspiring leaders attended the Symposium.

The event was designed to connect women educational leaders with one another through enjoying powerful key note speakers , networking and break out sessions.

FALL 2017 EDAD DEPARTMENTAL CEREMONY



The fall 2017 EDAD departmental graduation ceremony was held on Dec 16, 2017. The event was opened by the Dean of the School of Education and department chair. Students were recognized by name and hooded. The ceremony was organized by the administration and faculty to pay special tribute to the students for their outstanding efforts in earning their degree. Peers, friends and families attended the ceremony.

Congratulations !

EDAD Website

www.stcloudstate.edu/elhe

Save the Date!!!

MASSP
Summer
Conference
June 13-16,
2017
Breezy Point
Resort
Breezy Point,
MN

FEATURING STUDENT'S SUCCESS



EUROPEAN SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATORS WORKSHOP

by Elia Dimayuga-Bruggeman

Elia Dimayuga-Bruggeman is deputy education officer of Minneapolis public schools. She is currently enrolled in the first year of the Ed.D in Educational Administration and Leadership program at St. Cloud State University as a member of Cohort 8. Elia was selected as one of the five educators from the USA to attend a European school administrator workshop program that took place in Poitiers, France from January 9-13. Elia shares with us her story:

On December 2, 2016, I was pleased to receive notification from IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) that I was selected, along with five other educators from the United States, to take part in the European School Administrator Program Workshop on Integrating Refugees and Immigrants into Schools. The workshop took place in Poitiers, France from January 9-13, 2017. The U.S. Department of State sponsored the program in cooperation with IREX, the Franco-American Fulbright Commission, as well as the Ministry of France. Participating European countries were Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

As U.S. administrators, we were asked to deliver a presentation on an aspect of the immigrant and refugee integration experience, focusing on challenges and successful strategies we have implemented in American school districts. In this spirit, six of us administrators embarked on this journey to share, train, and collaborate on how we develop programming in various areas of academics, parent and community engagement, partnerships, etc. for immigrant refugees. My presentation focused on preparation for post-secondary education and the partnership developed to support students for college and career readiness.

While in France, we visited schools near Paris (Mantes la Jolie), received information about programs and future plans for immigrants from city officials, and learned about the support the city provides to immigrant parents. We continued traveling to the City of Poitiers, where we were greeted by education officials and participated in workshop sessions provided by the European administrators regarding their experiences and observations in the United States. Overall, in reflecting on the trip, I believe we need to act with urgency all over the world on behalf of immigrants, newcomers, and refugees to ensure that our schools are accessible and that there are pathways to opportunities and a better life for these students.

FEATURING FACULTY SUCCESS

A Conversation with Dr. Janine Dahms-Walker



What year did you begin your professorship here at SCSU?

I started in 2001 as an associate professor at the same time as Frances Kayona. Prior to that I was executive director of Benton Stearns Education District, having been employed there since 1983 in various administrative positions. I was recruited to SCSU by Dean Joann McKay to develop the Director of Special Education program which was just being transferred from the SPED Department to EDAD. The Dean made a compelling and visionary case to come to SCSU to build and help reshape the EDAD program.

What are your major accomplishments at SCSU?

When I started in 2001, we had 3 students who received director of special education licensure, and small enrollments in our other licensure programs. Our department has since licensed over 120 students as directors of special education, and we have 40 director students in process and more for principal and superintendent licensure. Currently there are about 110 directors of special education in MN and about half or more have graduated from SCSU since I started. About 95% of director students also complete principal/superintendent licensure. I revised our School Law classes and Special Education coursework to reflect best practice standards for emerging administrators. We have focused on encouraging and mentoring new administrators, particularly women and students who enrich our diversity.

What is your most enjoyable memory working here at SCSU?

Absolutely, my most favorite memories are working with our graduate students. Staying connected and active in education, helping students secure employment as new administrators and become the new leaders in education has been paramount. A favorite memory is the incredible EDAD faculty and staff we have to work with; the best of the best. It is this pipeline that continues to build our licensure program and bring graduates back to continue in the EDAD doctoral program. My memories all revolve around our students and my fabulous colleagues in EDAD.

What are your plans for retirement?

I will be continuing as an adjunct professor for EDAD; and I will still be around and helping our department as needed. My EDAD colleagues are also my friends and I look forward to our continuing social soirees. I will continue to serve as a statewide consultant for program evaluation, hiring, strategic planning /analysis and leadership development for school districts and educational organizations. SCSU has been very good to me, and I appreciate all the support from my colleagues, friends and students while I have been blessed to work here for the last 15 years.

Let the Journey Begin!

This spring semester, we, doctoral students of Cohort 8, are embarking on a journey of our life. This is no ordinary journey that we may have experienced so far. This one is different. The academics call it, the Dissertation Journey, where you take a lifetime journey to demonstrate your ability to design, write, and defend a unique and significant piece of independent research. This is the academics and not as easy as it sounds.

According to those who have gone through it, this is a journey where you may academically walk through a swamp, enter into a cave or fall into a pit. In this journey, you may run high and low, look for a short cut and may be blinded by a fog or lost in a data jungle. Like any other journey, you may feel at times isolated and land on an island or desolate in a desert. This journey is not an ordinary journey and it creeps up on you when you least expect it. You fall asleep thinking about it and wake up thinking about it. You fill guilty when you are not travelling or working on it and mired in self-doubt when you are not.

But do not despair. Many have had a rewarding experience and their journey left their marks and foot prints here and there. Just remember these words of wisdom from them. I honestly find them useful.

- Choose a do-able topic that you are passionate about
- Outline the steps needed to complete your dissertation
- Start anywhere but make consistent progress writing every day, even if only for short periods
- Remember organization and time management are keys
- Silence your internal critic and self-defeating thoughts
- Methodically break-through the hurdles that are mentioned above
- Treat your doctoral work as a full time job
- Stay humble, open and flexible to make all changes asked of you
- Make your cohort group your support system
- Pray and be sensitive to God's guidance

Do not ever think of this journey as an insurmountable task that will never be completed. It will. But remember, "When the road gets tougher, the tough get going." and with this final note ...let the journey begin...

Get Going Cohort 8

Kassahun Wana – Cohort 8 member

**Do you have an interesting story or idea?
Contact: edadga1@stcloudstate.edu**

EDAD CELEBRATES HUSKY SPIRIT CHALLENGE WEEK AT SCSU

The Husky Spirit week brought out the husky pride of the staff and students in the Center for Doctoral Studies. The staff showed school spirit with the makeover of the Center for Doctoral Studies' office inside and outside.



The Staff, Faculty and Graduate Assistants from the Center for Doctoral Studies.

Congratulations to the creative winners!
Though ELHE didn't win, the comraderie was great fun.

EDAD Website

It provides a wealth of information and useful links

for all EDAD students. You can find:

Forms

Handbooks

Events

Deadlines

and many other resources.

[Visit EDAD.](#)



In addition to the office decorating challenge, Sky was a proud husky mascot for the competition.

Tim Finn Receives MASE New Special Education Leader

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named Tim Finn, Director of Special Services at the St. Francis School District, as the recipient of the 2017 New Special Education Leader Award. According to Minnesota Administrators for Special Education, Finn has received this award for his commitment to students with disabilities and their families and his active involvement in professional and community affairs. He was honored with the New Special Education Leader Award at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 9-10, 2017, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

“Tim continuously demonstrates a commitment to providing exemplary programming for all students within the St. Francis School District, collaborating with parents and staff, and mentoring new leaders within the district,” said AnnaRae Klopfer, St. Francis School District Special Services Supervisor in her letter of support. “Tim takes the time to listen to all points of view, considers all options, and bases his decisions on what is going to best meet the needs of everyone involved, particularly the student.”

Finn has been employed by St. Francis School District as the Director of Special Services since 2013. He has been instrumental in increasing the programming options for all students. Finn helped establish Saint’s Online for the fall of 2015, an online school for students in grades 3-12, as well as Saint’s Academy for the fall 2016, an alternative learning program for students in grades 6-12. He was also the driving force behind researching and encouraging the district to become member of Intermediate School District 916 to better serve St. Francis’ most challenging students with disabilities. Finn has co-chaired St. Francis’ new Strategic Plan Implementation Team, identified a need and developed a new center-based special education program at East Bethel Community School, and worked closely with the director of curriculum and instruction to more effectively implement the RTI program. He also supervised the Indian Education Program, implemented changes to the district’s 504 development and delivery, and repurposed St. Francis’ Crossroads School and Vocational Center by bringing back the 18-21 Transition Program.

“Tim is the glue that binds our district level cabinet and administrators together. Each of us goes to Tim when we need a fresh and honest perspective. He truly is an out-of-the-box thinker who provides new perspectives on an on-going basis,” said Troy Ferguson, Superintendent of the St. Francis School District, in his letter of support. “Tim’s tireless work ethic and commitment to continuous improvement has significantly helped our district move forward in its mission to ‘equip all students with the knowledge and skills to empower them to achieve their dreams and full potential while becoming responsible citizens in a dynamic world.’”

For the first 15 years of his professional career, Finn worked for a non-profit social services agency that provided day programming and employment services to adults with disabilities. He joined St. Francis School District in 2001 and has held the roles of Transition Teacher/Due Process Facilitator and Program Supervisor ECSE. Finn became Director of Special Services in 2013. He has been an active MASE member serving on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Finn received a post-master’s graduate certificate in Educational Administration and Leadership from St. Cloud State University. He earned a master’s degree in Special Education and a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from the University of St. Thomas.

MASE is a professional association organized to promote programs and services to improve the education of children with disabilities, to foster high quality programs of professional development, and to study problems relating to serving children with disabilities and improving the leadership of administrators for special education. MASE members are administrators for special education in public or private schools, cooperative regional, state and other education administrative units, college and university professors of special education teacher or administrator preparation programs, and administrators, coordinators or consultants for the Minnesota Department of Education.

Article Source: http://www.mnase.org/uploads/4/7/7/9/47793163/17newleader_finn.pdf

Alumni Updates

A New Job

Evan Ronken, a graduate of the administration licensure program in EDAD, accepted the position of Human Resources in Buffalo, Minnesota. Congratulations, Evan! We wish you the very best.

Teacher of the Year Award

Mike Rowe was awarded the ROCORI School District Teacher of the Year Award for 2015-2016.

Great Team Work

Shorena Dolaberidze, EDAD doctoral student from cohort 3 and Beth Mann, Doctor of Education Administration and Leadership, presented at the Power and Diversity conference held in Saint Cloud State University, on January 28, 2017. Their presentation focused on Building Social-Emotional Resiliency Skill through Multiple Perspectives. They discussed how social-emotional resiliency can impact the daily lives of pre-service and new teachers as well as their students. Participants had opportunities to discuss the topic with the presenters during the conference which proved to be a highly valuable day for all involved. Both Alumni members plan to host more workshops in the future to expand knowledge and bring expert insights to the field on social emotional resiliency with undergraduate pre-service teachers.

Karen Orcutt Receives MASA Polaris Leadership Award

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Dr. Karen Orcutt, Superintendent of Schools for the Orono Public Schools, as the recipient of the 2017 MASA Polaris Leadership Award. The “Polaris Leadership award” is designed to recognize exemplary school leadership and a lifetime of achievement in education. Dr. Orcutt is recognized for qualities such as professional courage, professionalism, communication and creation of a legacy of excellent leadership.

Congratulations Superintendent Orcutt.

SUMMER-2017 GRADUATION DEADLINES

Final Defense

July 21, 2017

Submit for Format Review

August 2, 2017

Graduation

AUGUST 3, 2017

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS:

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE

- EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

POST MASTER'S GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

- K-12 PRINCIPAL
- DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
- SUPERINTENDENT

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

- EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

DISSERTATION FINAL DEFENSES-SPRING 2017

Joel Traver

Joel's research involved on analysis of the relationship between teacher candidate performance assessment results and teaching quality at the end of the first year of teaching. Job well done, Joel!

Christopher Fenske

Christopher's research focused on the Perceived School-Associated Factors Contributing to Teacher Attrition in Southwest Minnesota. Nice Job, Chris!

Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock

Cindy's research targeted Leadership for Educational Equity. Way to go, Cindy!

Nicole Rittenour

Nicole's research focused on Principal Professional Learning Communities. Excellent!

Sarah Papineau

Sarah researched Special Education Teacher Perceptions of Effectiveness and Knowledge in Literacy Instruction: Implications of Literacy Coaching. Great job, Sarah!

David Lund

David completed his research on Priorities vs. Reality, A Task Analysis of Secondary School Principals in the State of Minnesota. Great work, Dave!

Mike Favor

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

Reggie Edwards

Reggie research focused on Defining, Practicing, and Evaluating Innovation by Minnesota's Local Government



Editors:

Johnathan E. Luckey, Sr. Graduate Assistant
Kassahun Wana, Graduate Assistant



**BETH BERGREN-MANN, MELISSA TELLINGHUISEN, JUDY BEATON AND
AMY DENNESON LINED UP FOR THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

Congratulations Graduates of Fall 2016!

Community Education Graduate Certificate

- Jessica Mattsun

Master's of Science

- Jillian Doherty
- Heather Fannensteh
- Joshua Ihrke
- Christopher Rogers

Post-Master's Graduate Certificate

- Melisa Brever: K-12 Principal
- Abigail Duly: K-12 Principal
- Sara Hunstiger: K-12 Principal
- Lucas Kosters: K-12 Principal
- Jesus Sandoval: K-12 Principal

Doctor of Education

- Judy Beaton
- Beth Bergren-Mann
- Amy Denneson
- Melissa Tellinghuisen



EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
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