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## Educational Leadership Newsletter September 2014

Educational Leadership Department, University of Southern Maine

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## September 2014



### From the Chair

The beginning of the school year is always fast and furious – USM is no exception! According to all accounts our Educational Leadership program is doing well, classes are full and internships are prospering.

Changes have come once again to our Ed Leadership team; the appointment of Glenn Cummings as Interim President of the University of Maine at Augusta (BIG CONGRATULATIONS!!) is very big news. Glenn’s experiences at USM and his aspirations for leadership in higher education are needed to renew the strength and confidence in the university system. Glenn is officially on a one-year leave-of-absence as he pursues this new way to lead and serve Maine. His departure has put us all into a very creative problem-solving mode.

At the same time, we welcome Patrick Phillips to his new leadership assignment at the Southern Maine Partnership. Patrick brings a wealth of experience and his “outsider” perspective to the university. He joined our first meeting of the Educational Leadership faculty and is already an important, contributing colleague. Over the 2014-2015 school year Patrick will be the co-leader of the SMP with Anita Stewart McCafferty, as we embark on a very important agenda of topics. Educator Effectiveness and proficiency-based graduation top the list.

We are trying to make room for new topics for the SMP as well. Interest groups will be forming on two topics, leadership and arts education and technology-enhanced learning (online) learning.

Over the summer I was contacted by Rick Stiggins, our former scholar-in-residence at USM, to let me know he had just finished his book called *Defensible Teacher Evaluation*. Stiggins’ argument

is that “In this era of aggressive teacher evaluation reform, where teachers are charged with preparing ALL students to master 21st-century proficiencies, the measurement of teacher success must start where learning happens - in the classroom. Annual standardized test scores cannot provide evidence of student growth needed to evaluate teacher performance. But consider student growth in the form of evidence derived from classroom assessment and you’re on to something.” During the coming year we will be studying teachers’ use of their own pre- and post-data for teacher evaluation.

The Educational Leadership program co-sponsored a 3-day conference on July 29-31 with the Maine Arts Commission to support the Maine Arts Assessment Initiative. I served on the leadership team of MAAI to plan the first summit on arts education, assessment, and leadership. One teacher commented on the overall impact of the conference “Maine has a dedicated group of professionals united in working on assessment to improve teaching and learning.” Over 80 arts educators attended, with teams of three or more arts teachers from six school districts in southern Maine. Watch out, the teams of arts educators worked very hard to understand assessment, leadership, advocacy, and collaboration, and they are coming back to your school districts with aspirations and action plans.

On a personal note, my new book, *Cases on Teaching Critical Thinking through Visual Representation Strategies*, co-authored with my USM colleague Lenny Shedletsky, was published in May. The purpose of the book is to show specific strategies from K-12, higher education and medical school, for teaching critical thinking using concept maps and other visual representation strategies. I am very interested in this particular strategy because I see its effectiveness and more startling, its under-utilization in most classrooms. <http://www.igi-global.com/book/cases-teaching-critical-thinking-through/94866>



# Educational Leadership Newsletter

## Southern Maine Partnership Update

In an effort to serve you, the Southern Maine Partnership is pleased to announce its 2014-15 schedule. Given the strong attendance at last year's events, we have continued to focus our offerings on issues highly relevant to your upcoming school year - Smarter Balanced testing, teacher and principal evaluation district plans, and standards-based grading and proficiency-based diplomas, among others.

In that vein, we are delighted to have Former Maine Education Commissioner, and national executive on the Smarter Balanced team, Susan Gendron as Keynote Speaker on the first Dine and Discuss on **Sept. 24th from 4:00-6:30 pm** at the events room on the 7th floor of Glickman Library. Her topic: preparing for the Smarter Balanced tests. [Please click on this link](#) to RSVP for this event. As Jeff Beaudry mentioned in his letter, Anita Stewart McCafferty from the Educational Leadership Program will co-direct the SMP with Patrick Phillips in Glenn Cummings absence.

Jody Capelluti and Anita Stewart McCafferty will once again co-facilitate the monthly Principals meetings. The first meeting of the SMP Principals Group will be held **September 16 from 1- 2:30 pm** in room 423-424 Glickman Library on the Portland campus. Although we usually meet the second Tuesday of the month we are pushing this meeting back because of school openings. During this session, Anita and Jody will be sharing the initial phase of the research they will be conducting this year looking at the impact of social media on the role of the principal. Your input is welcomed as we shape our research. These monthly meetings are a great way to network with colleagues and to collaborate on pressing issues facing our schools and the principalship. Please RSVP to Anita at [anita.stewart@maine.edu](mailto:anita.stewart@maine.edu).

In addition to our Principals meeting each month, we are pleased to announce the Superintendents Series, thanks to the generosity of the UNUM Foundation. Superintendents and system-wide leaders will focus on issues of critical curricular, policy and leadership importance each month. Please mark your calendars for the **Sept 26th** opening meeting. We will meet from 7:45-9:15 in 423-424 Glickman Library on the Portland campus. We will be sending out additional materials in preparation for this meeting as well as RSVP information.

We look forward to a very productive school year - and a challenging one. It is our hope that we can help make it a highly successful one!

The Southern Maine Partnership is very interested in being responsive to the needs of the field. Interim President Flanagan shares our interest in 'customer satisfaction.' To assist us in this endeavor of better serving educational leaders in southern Maine, please take a few minutes to respond to the survey by clicking here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PMMHGJ9>

## Educational Leadership Faculty Awarded Faculty Senate Research Grant

Jody Capelluti and Anita Stewart McCafferty have been awarded a grant to study the impact social media has on the life and performance of the building principal. Effective principals understand the need to establish productive relationships with students, staff, parents, and various segments of the community to help build strong, positive, and open lines of communication. Engaging all stakeholders in the work of the school can only serve to create support for the school and as result enhance the educational experience of students. Effective principals use social media vehicles to lessen their workload and enhance their performance. They are in control of how they interact with others and how others communicate with them. They also learn to use technology to help shape the perception external constituents have of them and the school.

This research is the initial phase of a longitudinal study looking at the role of the principal in building community thorough the use of social media. Our initial target audience will be to survey principals and superintendents in Maine to collect baseline data and to ascertain their perceptions.

We will ask practicing principals:

1. The types of social media tools they currently use
2. The amount of time they spend using social media tools
3. The challenges and benefits of using social media tools

We will ask practicing superintendents:

1. The expectations they have on what types of social media tools are currently used by principals
2. The amount of time they believe principals should be spending using social media tools
3. The challenges and benefits they perceive in the principals' use of social media tools

Principals who attend Southern Maine Partnership Principal meetings will be asked to assist in developing research questions and providing feedback. Participants in the study will be asked to complete questionnaires we develop. We think that the information we glean will help to set policy guidelines on principals use of social media to build community as well as provide guidance as to expectations for principals. Please let either Jody or Anita know if you have any questions or wish to share information.



# Educational Leadership Newsletter

## Thinking About Internship?

### ***I think I am ready for the Ed. Leadership Internship. What do I need to do?***

The Internship and EDU 677: Seminar in School Management, should be the last set of courses you need to take before graduating from the Educational Leadership Master's. The Internship can also be taken to fulfill the capstone requirement in our post-master's (CAS) in Educational Leadership program.

Please notify Jody Capelluti at [jodyc@usm.maine.edu](mailto:jodyc@usm.maine.edu) as soon as possible if you believe you are ready to start the Internship with the next group, which begins at the end of April. Faculty will review your transcripts and contact you to inform you of your eligibility.

### ***When does the Internship and EDU 677 Seminar in School Management take place?***

EDU 685: Principals, EDU 686: Special Ed. Director, and EDU 688: Curriculum Coordinator Internships are nine graduate credits in total (three credits a semester) that span three consecutive semesters (summer, fall, and spring, respectively). The course meets once every two or three weeks for the whole year. During the summer, the meetings take place during the day, and during the fall and spring, the meetings occur from 7-9:30 PM. Individual meetings with you, your mentor, and your instructor are scheduled three times a year.

## Advising Questions? Educational Leadership Faculty:

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