



# LEADING THE WAY

Biannual Newsletter – Fall 2023



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION &  
HUMAN SERVICES

**COUNSELING,  
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
& HIGHER EDUCATION**

CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY

# WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to fall 2023!



My name is Dr. Sarah Marshall, and I am the chairperson for the newly formed Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership and Higher Education. It's been a while since we last connected through our newsletter, and we are thrilled to reach out to you again. A lot has happened since our last update in 2019, and we are excited to share our latest news and accomplishments with you. About

a year ago, our college underwent a reorganization and the former Department of Educational Leadership merged with the Counseling unit of the former Department of Counseling and Special Education. This merger has allowed for the sharing of resources and brought about many new collective ideas. In this newsletter you will find a program update for each of the units as well as information about their program offerings and faculty. Our commitment to excellence continues to drive these advancements and we strive to provide our students with the best opportunities for growth and success.

Our Alumni serve as credible ambassadors for our programs by modeling impeccable educational leadership practices and referring colleagues who are seeking to further their learning and expertise.

As the department chairperson, one of my priorities is to foster a strong sense of community within our department. Our alumni play a crucial role in this, serving as an inspiration to our current students and proof of the quality of education we provide. Your success is a testament to the strength of our programs, and we are proud to have you as part of our alumni community. Our graduates make a remarkable impact in their respective professions. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments, and we will share some of their success stories in our upcoming newsletters. Please share your job changes, awards, publications, and presentations with our department at [CEH@cmich.edu](mailto:CEH@cmich.edu). We look forward to reconnecting with you and celebrating the achievements of our department together.



# Global Studies Opportunity

South Africa - July 2024

CEH students will be traveling to South Africa July 7-18, 2024. They will explore the southern tip of Africa with other educational leaders interested in issues of education and public health post-apartheid. During their visit they will visit many institutions of higher education and talk with South African Educational Leaders, visit the famous apartheid museum, experience and authentic safari, and explore a coastal country rich in history. This experience is open to both current students and alumni. To learn more, contact Dr. Anne Hornak at [horn1am@cmich.edu](mailto:horn1am@cmich.edu)

## Department Program Updates

We are proud to announce several exciting developments in our programs.

### Master's in Counseling

The Counseling Program welcomed two new full-time online cohorts and one part time cohort, along with a full time Mt. Pleasant cohort in Fall 2023. We also started our first year of the MI-Elsis grant to support school counselors. We were awarded the Innovative Counselor Education Program Award from the North Central Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors. We welcomed two new faculty, Dr. Patrick Faircloth and Dr. Tobi Russell. They join Drs. Ellen Armbruster, Allison Arnekrans, Rueben Mwangi, Sheri Pickover, and Pam Sickinger to make up the counseling faculty. The program was fully accredited, including all concentrations, through October 2029.

» Learn more about the counseling program

Congratulations to our spring and summer 2023 graduates:

Rebekah Anderson, Sydney Byrne, Ismael Castellon, Victoria Goodrow, Sydney Martin, Mackenzie Anderson, Jennifer Burke, Nathan Dean, Cassandra Folsom, Cassidy Hernandez, Reed Holden, Heather House, Rachiel Karres, James Powers, Allysen Ramon, Kaitlyn Reidy, Hailee Saari, Madalin Sowden, Caitlyn Tryon, Dora Woods, Wendi Brownson, Brant Piper



Spring 2023 Hooding Ceremony

### Master's in Higher Education Administration and Social Justice

Drs. Eric Buschlen, Anne Hornak, Matthew Johnson, and Sarah Marshall serve as our higher education faculty. In fall 2023, the Master's of Higher Education Administration program became the Master's of Higher Education Administration in Social Justice. In addition to the name change, we reduced credit hours from 36 to 30, strengthened the focus on equity and inclusion in all courses, transitioned all coursework online, and designed the program to easily add-on one of three stackable graduate certificates to the program (for six more credits). This new format and delivery allow us to better reach more working adults and those full-time students on graduate assistantships across the country.

» Check out the revised program

We would also like to congratulate the following spring 2023 graduates:

Andrew Gehring, Rui Liu, Erin Pouncil, Nate Roselle, Alejandro Salais, Corbin Thompson, JD Copus, Justin Fonley, Riki Gross, Liz Daum



MAHESJ Spring 2023 Graduates

### Master's in Educational Leadership and Specialist in Education

Our PK-12 Unit is committed to preparing passionate, strategic, innovative, and resilient PK-12 leaders for today and tomorrow! Our Educational Leadership faculty include Drs. Gina Wilson, Gregg Dionne, and Ben Jankens.

The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program is thriving. Our online program engages current and aspiring school leaders in a comprehensive preparation program leading to a Master of Art's in Educational Leadership along

continued > >

» See a comprehensive list of our faculty

# Awards



Allison Arnekrans accepting NCACES Award in Denver, CO

The Master's in Counseling program recently received the NCACES Innovative Counselor Education Program Award. This award honors an outstanding, innovative, and/or unique counseling or counselor education program at an institution in the NCACES region.



Dr. Ben Jankens

Dr. Ben Jankens, a faculty member in Educational Leadership, was named the 2023-2024 President of the International Council of the Professors of Educational Leadership (ICPEL). The ICPEL is the oldest organization in the United States representing professors and educational leadership and is committed to serving the interests and needs of professors of the educational leadership and practicing school leaders.



Dr. Gina Wilson and her partner Dr. Shawn Wilson

Dr. Gina Wilson received the CMU Dr. Jean Newbery Award for Inclusive Excellence in Education. Congratulations, Dr. Wilson.

# Giving

Charitable contributions from our alumni and friends enable us to foster exceptional learning experiences for our students, support our faculty in their research and professional development, and to advance our programs in a variety of ways. If your CMU experience made a difference in your life, please consider contributing toward helping others take the next step in their education and professional journey. You may do so by mailing a check to:

**Attn: CMU Gifts Processing**  
Carlin Alumni House  
524 E. Bellows St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Or scan this QR code:**



# Department Program Updates (continued)

with a Michigan Elementary/Secondary School Administrators Certification. Students can choose which semester they want to begin taking classes and can graduate in five semesters.

Keeping the student needs and busy reality at the center of our work, students with an earned master's degree in any discipline, have so many options to further their career, knowledge, expertise, and credentials through the online Specialist Degree in General Education Administration. Embedded in the Ed.S Degree are two concentrations for students to choose from; concentration one leads to the Michigan Elementary/Secondary School Administrators Certification OR concentration two, which leads to Michigan Central Office Administrators Certification. In both concentrations, core certification classes are taken first, allowing students to apply for certification before they complete their Ed.S Degree. We call this our FastTrack to Certification option. Even more exciting news is students with an earned Ed.S Degree are eligible to transfer 24-27 credits into the Educational Doctoral Degree program once they are admitted.

» **Learn more about the FastTrack program**

## Doctor of Educational Leadership

Please join us in welcoming Ed.D. doctoral cohort #28! This new cohort includes: Rula, Abuali, Audrey Armodlian, Noah Burks, Debranae Campbell Sarah Danek, Marceil Davis, LaVonte Heard, Jessie Houghton, Primavera Jimenez, Crystal Keso, Mary Kimball, Sara Leggett, Jordan Marshall, Rebecca Molter, Alyse Munishamaiah, Kendal Perdue, Dan Shadik, Sheri Smith Mollie Trewartha



EdD Cohort #28

» **Learn more about the doctoral program**

We would also like to congratulate our spring/summer 2023 doctoral graduates:

- Dr. Andrea-Bernadette Pratt
- Dr. David Copeman
- Dr. Eddie V. Jones II
- Dr. Jonathon Glenn
- Dr. Kelvin Nile King Byrd
- Dr. Wil Cwikiel
- Dr. Anjam Chaudhary
- Dr. Leann Wheeler
- Dr. Jennifer Drevon
- Dr. Courtney Morris
- Dr. Joe Garrison
- Dr. Kathy Irwin
- Dr. Dana McCann
- Dr. Rhonda McMillan



2023 Spring Doctoral Graduates

» **See the 2023 completed Doctoral Dissertations**