

LEADING THE WAY

Biannual Newsletter - Spring 2024



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION &
HUMAN SERVICES

**COUNSELING,
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
& HIGHER EDUCATION**

CENTRAL MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

What a remarkable year it has been for the Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership, and Higher Education! As we reflect on the past months, it's clear that we've achieved numerous milestones worth celebrating. We commenced the year on a high note, receiving full accreditation from both CAEP and CACREP, underscoring our commitment to excellence in education.

The launch of our Master's in Higher Education and Social Justice, delivered entirely online, marks a significant step towards accessibility and inclusivity.

Our doctoral program saw notable successes, with all candidates who undertook comprehensive exams passing. We celebrated the graduations of 23 doctoral students and commend them for their hard work and dedication. Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate the 25th anniversary celebration of the EdD program on July 26, 2024, extending a warm invitation to all current students and alumni to join in the festivities. We welcome 18 new students into our fall 2024 cohort further enriching our academic community.

"...we are filled with pride and gratitude for the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni in making this year one to remember."



Sarah M. Marshall, Ph.D. (she/her)
Chairperson, Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership, & Higher Education

We recently honored a momentous occasion—the 65th anniversary of our counseling program—at our annual hooding/graduation ceremony, where we proudly bestowed our inaugural Alumni of the Year awards. The immense interest in our Master's of Counseling program, with over 2,000 inquiries and the admission of over 80 students to our fall 2024 cohorts, speaks volumes about our program's reputation and impact. Furthermore, EDL launched a fast-track to administrator certification. Forthcoming will be the acceptance of professional certifications for credit. These two initiatives underscore our department's dedication to innovation and flexibility in meeting the evolving needs of educators and leaders in the field. As we look back on these achievements, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni in making this year one to remember.

65 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Celebrating CMU's Counseling Program Legacy

In the summer of 1958, the Counseling Program at CMU embarked on its journey with the launch of the 'Master of Arts in Guidance & Counseling'—a humble beginning that laid the foundation for 65 years of excellence. Today, holding a prestigious CACREP accreditation, offering three specialized concentrations, and providing both part-time and full-time online programs, the Counseling Program at CMU stands as a beacon of innovation and growth, poised for a promising future.

On May 4th, 2024, the CMU Master of Arts in Counseling Program marked a significant milestone with a grand celebration—a harmonious blend of the annual Hooding Ceremony and the program's 65th Anniversary Celebration. The event drew a crowd of 250 attendees in person and an additional 30 via live stream, including former staff, faculty, and cherished alumni.

The afternoon unfolded as a tapestry of heartfelt connections and shared memories, carefully orchestrated to honor the program's rich legacy. A captivating 1 ½-hour ceremony showcased the program's remarkable progress, featuring insightful updates and a poignant keynote address delivered by a distinguished alumni speaker, Kim M. Seidel. Additionally, two outstanding alumni were recognized with the prestigious 'Outstanding Alumni Award,' Melissa Hutchinson and Amy Perschbacher, highlighting their exceptional contributions to the field.

The highlight of the afternoon was the formal hooding ceremony, where over 40 graduates were honored with a intimate celebration—a symbolic gesture marking the culmination of their educational journey. Parents, spouses, children, and other guests, gained a deeper appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice that each graduate had invested.

Amidst laughter and reminiscence, alumni reconnected with current faculty, staff, and peers, forging new bonds while cherishing old friendships. The event served as a poignant reminder of the sense of purpose that unites generations of Counseling Program graduates—a testament to the enduring impact of CMU's commitment to excellence in counseling education.

Distinguished Alumni Keynote Speaker

Kim M. Seidel

Therapist, Parenting Expert,
Author & National Speaker

Master's degree in
Professional Counseling from
CMU.



Melissa Hutchinson

Executive Director of
Counseling Services at CMU

Master's degree in
Professional Counseling from
CMU.



Amy Perschbacher

Owner and Executive Director of
Ronan Psychological Associates and
Mount Pleasant Mayor

Master's degree in Counseling
from CMU



LEADING THE WAY

Insights from an Educational Leadership Doctoral Alumni

Dr. Major Mickens, a 2017 alumnus of the Doctor of Education Program, currently holds the position of Director of Community Education and Student Support Services at L'Anse-Croix Public Schools. Dr. Mickens' story is as inspiring as it is impactful.

Originally setting sail in the Navy with aspirations of delving into electrical engineering, Dr. Mickens improved his skills in the realm of electrical work. However, when his ship was decommissioned, he embarked on a new voyage - one towards academic fulfillment. Enrolling in courses at a local community college, Dr. Mickens pursued his dream of becoming an electrical engineer. Yet, between his academic pursuits, he discovered an innate passion for mentoring and guiding students. This revelation led him to accept a coaching position, where he found immense fulfillment in working directly with the younger generation saying, "I don't ever want education to be a limiting factor on why I didn't get a position. So, I said we are going to take education off the table."

When asked about the doctoral program Mickens replied, "what's great about the doctoral program is the experience that comes with it. The rigorous test and comps along with the writing. Sometimes your writing is good and sometimes it isn't. Working with people is what makes the doctoral program so special." One of the greatest accomplishments Major Mickens had in his career was watching three of his students get picked in the top 20 of an academic team. "Setting the standards was huge for me. I wanted to make my students want to do better." Mickens said, "One of the biggest challenges education is facing today is parents and students thinking they are owed something. Being able to see the new leaders and give them the information they need is what makes me think education is in a good place."

"Education is not supposed to be easy; you are supposed to work hard". His advice for future school leaders and doctoral students is proof of his spirit: "Stick to it, you can always find a thousand excuses for why you don't have it done or why you can't finish or why you need more time, and my advice is to just get it done."



Dr. Major Mickens

Mickens identifies distractions as challenges faced by students. He emphasizes the importance of timely completion of assignments, stating, "Many of the students think that they can wait, that they don't have to work on the assignment right away. Getting the assignment done is the key". He emphasizes that true growth comes not from mere accumulation of knowledge but from the willingness to embrace challenges and take risks. As he properly puts it, "You don't get smarter if you know all of the information already, taking risks is what makes you better". Major Mickens advocates for challenging coursework, believing that taking risks is integral to personal and academic development. He motivates students to enroll in demanding classes, fostering resilience and self-discovery. Reflecting on his own experience, Dr. Mickens acknowledges his past reluctance to fully engage academically: "I feel like I never pushed myself enough while I was in school, that's why I pushed myself to get a doctorate."

Entering the doctoral program without a clear direction, Dr. Mickens found himself surrounded by a supportive community of faculty and peers who fueled his academic aspirations. This transformative experience marked the value of perseverance and the profound impact of mentorship and collaboration in the pursuit of academic distinction.

"...working with people is what makes the doctoral program so special."

Awards

2024 CMU Excellence in Teaching Award



Dr. Anne Hornak

"She provides a safe, dynamic, and inclusive learning environment at all times." As described from one of her students, Dr. Anne M. Hornak, professor of Higher Education, received the Excellence in Teaching Award from CMU. This award recognizes faculty that exceed the standards and expectations the University sets for all its members. Dr. Hornak's philosophy of teaching can best be described as "student-centric, relevant, and innovative". Congratulations Dr. Hornak!

Recognitions

2024 -2025 JEDI Committee Chair



Dr. Gina Wilson

Dr. Gina Wilson has been designated as the chair of the JEDI Committee for the 2024-2025 term. Established by The International Council of the Professors of Educational Leadership (ICPEL) in 2020, the JEDI Committee supports underrepresented faculty through teaching, scholarship, and service. Dr. Wilson will lead JEDI efforts to advocate for and support underrepresented groups in the field of educational leadership and beyond. Congratulations Dr. Wilson!

Department Program Updates

Congratulations to the Fall 2023 Graduates!

Doctor of Educational Leadership

Dr. Lakeisha Simpson, Dr. Quentrese Hinton, and Dr. Erica Johnson

MA in Education: Community College

Suzanne Way, James Van Every, Cara Meldrum, Christine Cox, and Misty Smith

Specialist in Education Administration

Jill Baliet, Pashka Manturuk, and Dorvia Thomas-Hill

MA in Educational Leadership

Stacy Georges, Samantha Garner, Lindsey Hanley, and Riley Kuzniewski

MA in Education: Training & Development

Claire Bradley and Rene Miller

MA in Counseling

Nicole Rubin, Jourden Armstrong, Peighton Cline, Tessa Hammond, Tara Campbell, Trevor Brace, Natalie Parraghi, Marinela Brady, Emily Huckaba, Melissa Rapp, Ashley Stender, Kaitlin Ryan, Gregory Paddock, Alese Copley, Diedre Tyler, Deirdre Myers, Samantha Pindur, Angela VanBlaricum, Sparkalena Boose, Michelle Batty, Eddie Beach, Amber Bohnett-Smith, Jenna Gembrowski, Morgan Terbovich, Mariele Feldpausch, Natalie Jones, Caitlin Frost, Mary Olen



Higher Education Present at 2024 JEDI Conference



Dr. Matthew Johnson and Dr. Anne Hornak recently presented at a JEDI committee conference on May 17th, 2024, hosted by ACPA Michigan. This year's theme was "Rest, Respect, and Restoration." Dr. Johnson and Dr. Jon Humiston discussed online enrollment trends and equitable teaching strategies for marginalized students in the US and CMU.

Additionally, Dr. Hornak, Dr. Johnson, and Dr. Symantha Dattio shared insights on identity-based courses in higher education to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[Learn more about ACPA Michigan](#)

Counseling Honors Society Initiates New Members

On April 7, 2024, the Mu Kappa Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) International, initiated almost 50 new members in its annual induction ceremony. With more than 440 chapters developed in the USA and other countries, and with 162,000 initiated members, CSI is one of the largest single member organizations of professional counselors in the world. At CMU, the Mu Kappa chapter is an active and award-winning chapter, which was first activated in 1997 then with a reboot in 2014. It remains the premier student-led organization for our counselors-in-training. Their mission is to "promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership and excellence in counseling, and to recognize high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in the profession of counseling." Contact Dr. Allison Arnekrans, arneklak@cmich.edu, Chapter Faculty Advisor for more information.



[Learn more about CSI](#)

Honoring Students and Alumni Achievements

A toolkit for mid-career academics

Staci Sharp Starck, a current student from the Doctor of Educational Leadership program, never expected to receive an invitation from her co-worker and friend, Dr. Vicki L. Baker, to write a chapter on her newest book "A Toolkit for Mid-Career Academics: Cultivating Career Advancement".

"What's next" and "What to navigate" are the questions most mid-career faculty ask themselves. This book offers to faculty, non-tenure-tracks and community college an action-oriented tool with resources, tools and strategies provided by leading scholars and practitioners who share their stories from the field and expertise with their readers.



»» To learn more about this book

From Doctoral Scholar to District Leader



Dr. Kristina Hansen

The Manistique Board of Education has selected Dr. Kristina M. Hansen as the new superintendent for the school district, starting her role on January 1st, 2024. Dr. Hansen completed her Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership in 2020.

Her work experience started as a grant coordinator, behavior management trainer, writing project coordinator, and classroom teacher at the Nah Tah Wahsh Public School Academy in Wilson. Across her career, she has been an exemplary educator, ensuring that schools foster safe and supportive environments for every student. She believes that they deserve an unwavering advocate who tirelessly strives to propel them towards their utmost potential.

Dual Honors in Higher Education

Amy McGinnis, an alumni from the Doctorate of Educational Leadership, was honored with the Bob Cook Service Award at the CBA Hall of Fame dinner in April 2024 for her outstanding contributions to the College of Business Administration. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who demonstrate remarkable service within the college. Additionally, on June 11th, Dr. McGinnis will receive the Michigan Distinguished Woman Leader in Higher Education Award by Michigan ACE, further highlighting her achievements in the field.

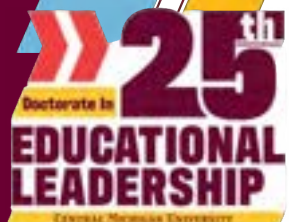


Dr. Amy McGinnis

Currently, as the Director of Student Experience at CMU's College of Business, Amy plays a pivotal role in shaping student engagement and professional development. She also serves as a distinguished faculty member in the management department, offering expertise in Human Resources, training and development, management, and communication.

Join your cohort colleagues, past and present faculty, and other program supporters as we celebrate the 25th year of the Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Families and partners are welcome.

[CLICK HERE](#) to join the event



Fire Up
CHIPS!