A Visit from Your Next Door Neighbors

Introduction to the College of Education

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of the College of Education
  - Some history
  - About our structure and our faculty
- Brief presentations from COE faculty
- Conversation about collaboration
- Networking

Introductions

- David Hardy, Associate Dean for Research and Service & Associate Professor of Higher Education
- Nathaniel Bray, Education Policy Center Associate Director & Professor of Higher Education Administration
- Andre Denham, Associate Professor of Instructional Technology
- Bob Johnson, Professor of Educational Leadership
- Stephen Katsinas, Education Policy Center Director & Professor of Higher Education
- June Preast, Assistant Professor of School Psychology
- David Walker, Director, Center for the Study of Ethical Development & Associate Professor of Educational Psychology
- Dylan Williams, Assistant Professor of Sport Management
- Culverhouse College of Business Attendees

About the College of Education

- The beginnings of our College date back to 1844. We have undergone many name changes:
- 1844 – The Normal Department
- 1873 – The Normal School in the Department of Professional Education
- 1899 – The School of Pedagogy and Psychology
- 1901 – The School of Psychology, Logic and Pedagogy
- 1902 – The School of Philosophy and Education
- 1909 – The School of Education
- 1928 – The College of Education – 2nd UA College

Structure

- Six instructional departments
  - Curriculum and Instruction
  - Educational Leadership, Policy and Technology Studies
  - Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology, and Counseling
  - Kinesiology
  - Music Education
  - Special Education and Multiple Abilities
- Five UA Board-recognized centers
  - Belser-Parton Literacy Center
  - Center for Interconnected Behavioral and Mental Health Systems
  - Center for the Study of Ethical Development
  - Education Policy Center
  - UA/UWA Regional In-Service Education Center

People and Programs

- Approximately 130 tenured, tenure-track and full-time renewable contract faculty
- 2,521 students in Spring 2020
  - 1,664 Undergraduate & 857 Graduate
- Some Important Outreach Programs
  - Adapted Athletics
  - Alabama Community College Leadership Academy
  - Alabama Math Science Technology Initiative (AMSTI)
  - Alabama Positive Behavior Systems Office
  - CrossingPoints
  - UA Superintendents' Academy

About Grants and Contracts

- **FY 2018-2019**
  - **Submissions** – 131 Proposals/95.70 Shares – $40,765.291.83 Total Value
  - **Awards** – 62 New Awards/54.55 Shares – $11,310, 714.81 Total Value
- **Currently managing approximately 80-85 funded projects across the College**
- **Primary Funding Sources:**
  - Alabama State Department of Education
  - Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
  - Alabama Department of Human Resources
  - Individual School Districts/Systems
  - Kern Family Foundation
  - National Institutes of Health
  - National Science Foundation
  - Spencer Foundation
  - US Department of Education

André R. Denham

Associate Professor of Instructional Technology
Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies

- **Research & Teaching Focus:**
  - **Game-Based Learning**
    - **Design and development of digital & analog educational games**
    - **Games for teaching and learning (Formal & Informal)**
    - **Application of A.I. in digital game-based learning**
  - **Instructional Design & Technology**
  - **Educational Technology**
- **Email Address: adenham@ua.edu**

Bob L. Johnson, Jr.

Professor
Ed Leadership and Policy

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Research Teaching Focus

- Organization theory
- Organization change
- Organization politics (micropolitics)
- Strategic planning
- Leadership
- Educating across professions
- Policy in the K-12 Ed Sector

Research Focus Narrative

Given the life and society we envision for ourselves, what we know about the teaching-learning process, what we know about organizations and organizational dynamics (org theory and micropolitics), and the reality of scarce resources (organization economics).... what is the most effective and efficient way to organize and to lead educational organizations so as to educate citizens and realize this life and society?

Consider the challenges of answering this question:

- **competing visions -** There are competing visions/definitions of what constitutes the 'good' life and society.

- **uncertainty of core task:** *teaching-learning* - Our knowledge of teaching and learning are incomplete.

- **organizational complexity and unpredictability -** Organizations are complex and at times unpredictable. This is because: 1) the people who inhabit them can be unpredictable, 2) the core tasks they perform can be complicated/complex, and 3) resources are typically scarce,

- **effectiveness:** *challenges of defining, measuring* - Organizational effectiveness can be hard to define, much less measure.

- **causal links to good life/society unknown -** Even if agreement exists regarding what the good life and society are, knowing how to realize both can be unknown.

- **other**

Dr. Steve Katsinas & Nathaniel Bray

Director & Associate Director, Ed Policy Center

- Research & Teaching Focuses:
  – History, Finance & Access of Higher Education
  – Twentieth-Century American Education Policy
  – Federal & State student aid (Pell Grants, lottery, ROI)
  – ROI of Alabama and US higher education
  – Rural development policy, and role of higher education & community colleges
  – Transfer and articulation (Alabama Transfers)
  – Workforce training: Aligning education and workforce

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David Ian Walker

Assoc. Prof Ed Studies/Director Center for the Study of Ethical Development

- **Research & Teaching Focus:**
  - **Character / moral Education**
  - **Virtue Ethics / neo-Kohlbergian approaches**
  - **Leadership for character (Kern Family funded $2.5m)**
  - **Ethical / moral judgement measures - dilemmas**
  - **Military / professional Ethics**
  - **Interdisciplinary / mixed methods**

- **diwalker@ua.edu**

June L. Preast

Assistant Professor, School Psychology
Educational Studies

- **Research Focus:**
  - Systems-level change in schools through the use of school psychologists
    - Teacher teams
    - Teacher data literacy
    - School psychologist consultation with teachers
  - Specific research interest: Cost-benefit analysis of school psychologists vs school psychometrists in the state of Alabama
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