The Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology (ELRT) is a graduate intensive department that develops diverse, ethical leaders and scholars who have the skills and knowledge to bring innovative solutions to current problems and challenges.

Dale Schreuder – BA ’72; M.A. ‘77

Golden Apple Award Winner

The K-12 Unit of the ELRT Department was very excited to have one of its graduates named as a recipient for the Golden Apple. The Golden Apple Award is given to honor outstanding individuals who attended or graduated from the College of Education and Human Development at Western Michigan University and are presently working or retired from the many professions involved in the educational experience. The individuals are personally selected by their peers as being representative of educational excellence and commitment. Mr. Dale Schreuder devoted his professional life to the K-12 educational arena by serving as a teacher in Portage, an administrator in Decatur, principal in Montague, and superintendent in Bloomingdale. Nominating letters spoke to Dale’s commitment to interact with the students and parents he served. Dale was extremely dedicated to the profession and exemplified the highest ethics and professional dispositions. Dale has been an outstanding educator and is a quality ambassador for Western Michigan University. In his remarks upon accepting the award, Dale spoke to the many individuals who have helped him an outstanding educator. Dale recognized many colleagues, friends, family member – most importantly, his wife, Elaine. From the K-12 Unit – CONGRATULATIONS, Dale!
WMU’s Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology Ranked Among the Nation’s Best

The Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology is ranked #16 among all universities and colleges in the nation by Graduateprograms.com. This organization ranks the best graduate programs in the country in a variety of fields based solely on ratings and reviews from current or recent graduates posted on Graduateprograms.com. Students rank their graduate program by topics such as academic competitiveness, career support, financial aid and quality of network. This is a recognition that all students, alumni, faculty, and staff can be proud of!

For further information please visit:

http://www.graduateprograms.com/educational-leadership-programs/

Reminder: If you have not registered for spring 2016 classes, please do so soon!
Alumni in Action:

Mrs. Elizabeth Baleja, B.A. ’11, M.A. ’14
Principal - Lawrence High School

Mrs. Elizabeth Baleja was recently appointed the principal of Lawrence High School in the Lawrence Public Schools. Mrs. Baleja is a two-time graduate of Western Michigan University receiving her B.A. in Spanish and Mathematics in 2011 and her M.A. in Educational Leadership in 2014. After graduating from WMU in 2011, Elizabeth took a position in Battle Creek Lakeview teaching Spanish at Riverside Elementary. From 2012 to 2015, Elizabeth taught high school mathematics and Spanish at Bloomingdale Middle and High School. This past summer, Elizabeth was hired as principal at Lawrence High School.

Elizabeth espouses to the philosophy of educating the whole child. She reflects on graduating from college and not realizing how much of the student’s wellbeing is out of her control. However, that has not stopped her from reaching out to families to provide extra assistance – a lot of emotional support. One way Elizabeth accomplished this was to be involved as much as possible in extracurricular activities. She saw her involvement in these activities as a way to provide additional support and guidance to students outside of the normal school hours.

Elizabeth decided to pursue an administrative career because she can make a bigger impact in education. She embraces the idea of being an instructional leader, but still likes doing the managerial work of a principal. Elizabeth enjoys teaching and she sees the opportunity to teach teachers as vary rewarding. Her advice to those considering the principalship is to ask questions – she recognizes that she still has many questions.

Elizabeth is very proud of her WMU degree and she contends that it appropriately prepared her for the role of principal. She amplified the notion that due to her being in a leadership position in a small school, she is required to “wear many hats.” The K-12 ELRT program adequately prepared her for these challenges. She noted that many of her classes provided hands-on projects, which she was able to modify and then use in her leadership role.

The WMU K-12 ELRT department is quite proud of Elizabeth’s passion for education!
K-12 ELRT Developing All Courses Online

In conjunction with the initiative led by the College of Education to create a nationally marketed Master’s program in athletic administration and educational leadership, the K-12 ELRT unit is developing all of its courses online.

This does not mean that the M.A. in educational leadership will be a total online program – in fact, the development of the online courses will simply increase the formats by which the courses are delivered. Courses currently exist as face-to-face and hybrid formats and that will not change.

Throughout their career, students will be able to select the format that is most convenient for them to enroll in, or in the manner they learn best.

Comments from the Field:

Jean Logan, Three Rivers Community Schools Superintendent

EDLD 6620 – School Business Management taught by Dr. Dennis McCrumb

“This course has been exceptional in providing pertinent, hands-on, real-time opportunities to analyze, review, and plan several aspects of my position. Several years ago, I enrolled in a school finance class through the University of Michigan-Flint. That course was helpful, but in no way provided the depth of knowledge I found in this course.”

“Undoubtedly, I would encourage others to enroll in this course. The application of the learning was immediate, and I believe that courses like this really develop one’s self-direction in regard to professional growth.”
Spotlight on Students:

Heidi Diaz

South Haven Public Schools

Heidi Diaz is currently a Master’s student in the K-12 ELRT program at WMU. Heidi graduated with a B.A. in elementary education from Arizona State University in 2003. Heidi completed an M.A. in special education from WMU in 2010. Heidi was a special education teacher from 2010 through 2015 at Lawton High School teaching a variety of special education math and science courses. She was very involved in leading IEP meetings and developing behavior intervention plans.

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, Heidi accepted a position as special education director with the South Haven Public Schools. Heidi is a liaison between the local school district and the intermediate school districts. She spends a great deal of time working with principals and the director of instruction to establish effective and efficient communication and team processes, supports RTI, improves the effectiveness of special education programming and services, coordinates professional development for special education, and assists in hiring and training special education teachers.

Heidi hails from Saugatuck, Michigan and currently resides in South Haven, Michigan with her husband, Matt, their son Griffin, and they are expecting the birth of their daughter at the end of March 2016.

Faculty Focus

Dr. Louann Bierlein-Palmer

Dr. Louann Bierlein Palmer is a professor of educational leadership, research and technology at Western Michigan University, specializing in educational leadership. She earned an Ed.D. in educational administration from Northern Arizona University, a M.Ed. in educational administration from University of Arizona, and a B.S. in general science/biology from Michigan State University. She teaches, among other courses, school community relations and cultural competency, policy development and analysis, and leadership theory. Her research interests include a broad array of K-12 and higher education reform and policy issues. Prior to joining WMU, Bierlein Palmer served in various policy research and leadership roles, including the governor’s office in Louisiana, and university policy centers in Louisiana and Arizona. She is also considered a national expert on quality charter school laws and authorizing policies.
State Senator Geoff Hansen Visits School Law Class in Grand Rapids

Students in Dr. Geier’s Grand Rapids section of School Law and Ethics were fortunate to spend the evening of November 17th with State Senator Geoff Hansen. Senator Hansen currently represents the 34th district, which is encompasses much of the Muskegon area. Most noteworthy to the class is Senator Hansen’s appointment as Chair of the K-12 subcommittee on appropriations.

Senator Hansen opened his remarks by reviewing several pieces of legislation that have recently been enacted as well as initiatives in the legislature that may become law in the near future. Senator Hansen has expertise with the K-12 budget and many of his comments were very detailed regarding budgetary items.

After his opening comments, Senator Hansen accepted questions from students on a variety of issues related to legislation that is guiding public education. Senator Hansen was very knowledgeable, thorough and transparent with his responses. The students really enjoyed interacting with a legislator who is very passionate about improving Michigan’s public education system.

Thank you, Senator Hansen!
RESEARCH IMPACTS THE FIELD

Local Educators Publish With WMU Faculty

In concert with WMU faculty several local school teachers and administrators published a book edited by Drs. Jianping Shen and Walter Burt, titled, Learning-Centered Leadership: School Renewal in Action. This book presents nine case studies and a cross-case analysis of how schools enacted the content and process in a framework of school renewal to improve their school operations and student achievement. This book is unique in offering an inside view from the perspective of the school personnel. Those involved in authoring chapters are:

Van E. Cooley
Patricia Robinson
Kimberly Johnson-Ray
Louann Bierlein-Palmer
J. Mark Rainey
Patricia Reeves
Chandra Youngblood
Michelle Asmus
Debora Stermer
Janice Marchal
Charles Pearson
Robert Leneway

Jianping Shen
Gary Wegenke
Lisa Frey
Garth Cooper
Misty Pfeiffer
Walter Burt
Dee Voss
Dennis McCrumb
Delsa Chapman
Tina Munoz
Rick Reo
Michelle Asmus

Dr. Brett Geier Awarded by the National Education Finance Association

Dr. Geier was recently notified that he was selected by his peers at the National Education Finance Association as a National Education Finance Conference Distinguished Fellow. Each year, the NEFC Distinguished Research & Practice Fellow Awards committee extends this lifetime award to individuals who have gained national visibility for their exemplary research and/or practice in the field of education finance both on the elementary and secondary level as well as in higher education. Dr. Geier’s finance research focuses on public school adequacy and equity, retirement systems and schools’ general fund balances.

Dr. Geier will be accepting the award at the National Education Finance Conference in Jacksonville, Florida in February 2016.
### Spring 2016 Classes on All Campuses Currently Enrolling

<table>
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<th>Frequency</th>
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Please see [www.wmich.edu/classlookup/](http://www.wmich.edu/classlookup/) for more information.
Administrator Certification Requirements in Michigan

Who Must Hold a K-12 Administrator Certificate?

Any principal, assistant principal, dean of students (if they oversee any part of the instructional program and/or evaluate teachers); the superintendent and chief business official, plus any central office administrator who administers instructional programs, early childhood directors; special education directors, curriculum directors, etc.

Can a person be hired without a K-12 Administrator Certificate?

A district may, but is not required to, hire a person without an administrator certificate if:

a. That person was a K-12 administrator before January 4, 2010 and has maintained current continuing education requirements since that time; or

b. That person files a plan with the district to acquire an administrator certificate within 6 months of hire date and completes that plan within 3 years of filing the plan. The district is responsible for acquiring such a plan and for monitoring progress toward completing the plan. There are penalties for both the district and the person for failure to comply with these requirements.

The ELRT K-12 Unit is always receptive to receiving feedback, concerns or suggestions. If you wish to provide us with any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Dennis McCrumb (dennis.mccrumb@wmich.edu) 269.387.1720 or Dr. Brett Geier (brett.geier@wmich.edu) 269.387.3490

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