Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

E-Newsletter Fall 2020 Volume 7

“Life starts all over again with the crispness of fall”

- F. Scott Fitzgerald
From the Directors
Let’s Survive and Thrive Together!

The effects and realities of the COVID-19 pandemic persist. Eight months ago we imagined these daunting, unsettling, surreal times would be in our wake by now. Instead, the challenges of 2020 are not behind us; we remain uncertain from one day to the next, the toll on everyone is palpable. Concurrent with COVID, we are living through a pandemic of racism. This affected us personally and professionally. As leaders in various educational settings, you are working hard to provide opportunities for students, colleagues, and yourselves to learn about and grapple with race and racism. Even in the face of a recent executive order that seeks to thwart collective efforts to combat inequity, our core values and commitment remain strong to design and implement equitable environments.

In our weary moments, we wonder when we will return to normal. But — to steal a phrase from Michelle Obama’s podcast — “We shouldn’t hope for normal; we must hope for better!” Normal has been obliterated, and the illusory boundaries we constructed and maintained for our personal and professional lives have collapsed. This is painful and exhausting, yet also empowering. This may be the glimmer of a silver lining that catches the eye during this pandemic. We have opportunities to redefine roles, to rethink the ways we do our work, and to establish meaningful ways to connect with each other.

It isn’t easy. We need the energy of countless Energizer Bunnies to just keep going and going! We continue to be thrown curveballs; the seemingly benign — a barking dog when we unmute a mic during a Zoom meeting or internet glitches that drop us from a class — produces a lurch of anxiety. But we then remember the collective gratitude and patience we are extending to each other. We recognize that we’re all going through this together. We know none of us has it figured out, and we’re all doing our best. These ‘disruptions’ to our work are actually making visible our humanity and fill us with hope knowing and seeing all that we’re capable of!

In sum, we are in awe of the strength, humor, creativity, and caring that is put forth each day. Through this newsletter, we showcase the many accomplishments of all affiliated with the doctoral program. Please enjoy our virtual celebrations of our 2019–20 graduates by viewing Flipgrid and Graduation Slideshows. Additionally we welcomed 38 new doctoral students into our doctoral community. Click here to meet our new doctoral cohorts.

Stay safe!

Susan Iverson-Director of the Manhattanville Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership
Susan.Iverson@mville.edu   @susaniverson1

Renée Gargano-Assistant Director of the Manhattanville Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership
Renee.Gargano@mville.edu @reeneegargano
Congratulations

May 2020 Graduates

Dr. Janety Encarnación, Dissertation Completion Pathway 4
Dr. Natasha Freeman-Mack, Signature 6
Dr. Nicole Joseph, Higher Ed 2
Dr. Roy Martin, Signature 9
Dr. Marco Pochintesta, Dissertation Completion Pathway 3
Dr. Margaret Podesta McDonald, Signature 6
Dr. Sharlise Smith-Rodriguez, Higher Ed 1

August 2020 Graduates

Dr. Jerrod Blair, Signature 8
Dr. Shana Eutsay, Higher Ed 2
Dr. Bernadette Kingsley, Signature 7
Dr. Samantha Ross, Higher Ed 2
The Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership invites you to join us at our

Virtual Info Series

Signature Pathway (P-12)
November 12 @ 7:00 PM

Dissertation Completion Pathway
November 19 @ 7:00 PM

Higher Education Leadership Pathway
December 3 @ 7:00 PM

All three degree pathways are designed for mid-career professionals who desire or have leadership experience. The pedagogy of problem-based learning is integrated throughout the coursework, field experiences and applied research. We invite you to learn more about our incredibly powerful program by attending one or all of these informational opportunities.

**Note: when you attend an Information Session, you receive a coupon that waives your application fee!**

Register for one or all: [www.mville.edu/EDD-INFOSERIES-2020](http://www.mville.edu/EDD-INFOSERIES-2020) or email: renee.gargano@mville.edu
Welcome New Students

Meet the Cohorts

Manhattanville Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership Launches its First National Online Completion Pathway Cohort (DCP).

Presenting Inaugural Cohort 1 comprised of 14 P12 and Higher Education school leaders from across the country to include: (left to right) EdD Assistant Director, Renée Gargano, EdD Director, Susan Iverson, Anthony Jennings (MI), Breana Bayraktar (VA), Danielle Orlovic (FL), Devon Winters (IA), Brenda Knight (FL), Barbara Freeman (NY), Julianne Ross-Kleinmann (NY), Claude Mayo (CT), Tracey-Ann Barclay (NY), Tim Mains (NY), Professor and Program Coordinator, Dr. Peter Troiano, Stephen Murley (IA), Tameka Jackson (NY), Julia Huang (NY), Devin Klugh (MS).

These 14 students began their doctoral studies in July 2020 with an extended weekend residency that provided them with a strong foundation for their future success. Students met weekly throughout the summer and fall with Professor and Program Coordinator, Dr. Peter Troiano. The doctoral faculty provided in-depth sessions on related topics to further support the students while offering exposure to doctoral faculty and potential dissertation committee members. The Online Dissertation Completion Pathway students participated in their second extended weekend residency on October 16 and 17, where they had the opportunity to meet faculty from the School of Education and hear from a panel of alumni who shared their guidance and insights for a successful doctoral journey. Students focused their weekend on creating their own dissertation completion timeline, developing their theoretical/conceptual framework, and positioning themselves as "The Researcher." A fabulous weekend and, by all accounts, a most productive time well spent!
Our Higher Education Leadership Pathway to the EdD is designed for practicing and aspiring leaders seeking to further develop their skills to meet the challenges facing two-year, four-year, and graduate colleges and universities, and to help shape higher educational institutions in the future. The Manhattanville College Higher Education Leadership Concentration is the only program in the region that decisively addresses what higher education leaders need to know to navigate challenges and opportunities in today’s climate of change.

In partnership with PNW BOCES, our Signature Pathway to the EdD is designed to meet the needs of practicing and aspiring leaders in a variety of educational contexts (e.g., public, private, charter schools and districts) who want to be a catalyst to improve student learning, build strong partnerships, influence professional and policy-making communities, and promote the public’s confidence in the educational enterprise.
Spotlight on Dedication

Bancha Srikacha, Higher Ed Leadership Cohort 4, and Instructional Technologist for Manhattanville College Center for Teaching and Learning

“On behalf of the entire Manhattanville College community, we recognize the outstanding leadership provided by Bancha who leads the college’s shift to online learning...

With imperturbable patience, goodwill, endless energy, and unflappable good manners, Bancha Srikacha, our Instructional Technologist, stepped forward when we needed him most. He did so on his own initiative, without a directive from me, like one of my favorite characters from American literature, Jurgis, in Upton Sinclair’s classic The Jungle who, whenever things got even tougher for his family than they had already been before, simply said ‘I will work harder!’ Like Upton Sinclair’s fictional character, Bancha Srikacha, in his quiet, unassuming way, simply moved up his game, saying quietly and reassuringly, ‘I will work harder.’ Thank you to Bancha for setting such a great example for all of us and thank you to all of you who have followed his example!”

Michael Geisler
Manhattanville College President
Brendalon Staton, Higher Ed 4, and Marielly Gallucci, Signature 11 presented an online seminar on July 15, 2020 entitled, “The Role of Higher Education in Times of Crisis,” as part of the Summer Reflection Series at Manhattanville College. Their insights and leadership provided important strategies to support our students and community while operating remotely.

Marlon Small, Individualized Strand, was appointed Superintendent of Greenport Public Schools.

Kerri Stroka, Signature Cohort 1: Orange Ulster BOCES

As Director of Special and Alternative Education for OU BOCES, Kerri and staff distributed 700 Learning Kits to OU BOCES Special Education Students in July, 2020. Read more
Sister Act
Robin Pitts, Higher Ed Leadership Cohort 5, and Barbara Freeman, Dissertation Completion Pathway Online Cohort 1, embarked upon their doctoral journey together in summer 2020. “She is your mirror, shining back at you with a world of possibilities…” - Barbara Alpert.

Mama Mia
Juliesa McFarlane, Higher Ed Leadership Cohort 5, follows in the ambitious footsteps of her mom, Kendall Murray McFarlane, Higher Ed Leadership Cohort 2.
Sagrario Rudecido-O’Neill, Signature Orange Ulster BOCES Cohort 1 and Principal of Little Britain Elementary School, was featured in Times Herald Record, June/July 2020: “I am Orange County” Read about Sagrario.

Garfield Charles, Signature Pathway Cohort 9 produced a panel discussion on “Engaging High School Students via Distance Learning: Challenges and Strategies,” September 3.

This panel discussion was designed to help prepare educators who were about to embark on Distance/Remote Learning for the new school year and could be filled with uncertainties and challenges during this COVID 19 Pandemic. The panelists had all taught summer school courses at the Greenwich Public Schools Summer School Program 2020, and shared their knowledge of successful strategies, programs, apps and other resources for effective virtual teaching. Watch the discussion.
See how Assistant Director Renée Gargano gets “Blown Away” by the Manhattanville Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. Watch the video

Why wait? Just think, a year from now you'll be one-third through this 3-year program!

Begin your application today!

For additional information visit https://mville.digication.com/edd-higher-education-leadership/welcome

or contact: School of Education Graduate Admissions Office edschool@mville.edu
New Publications


“My desire to pursue my degree in the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Manhattanville has given me a new perspective on how I can contribute to the field of education in a scholarly manner. From my paper that focused on dual enrollment and developmental education, to my quantitative class that helped me understand data, to my literature review that taught me how to look more deeply at student access, to submitting this journal entry as part of my Capstone Project, to my analysis of the history and purpose of community colleges in the higher education system.”
Jennifer Wesolowski, Signature Pathway Cohort 10, was appointed Coordinator of AIS and 504 Services K-12 at Lindenhurst School District in Suffolk County, Long Island, NY.

Student News

Movin’ On Up!

Alex Levine, Signature Pathway Cohort 4, was appointed Principal of Fieldstone Middle School for the North Rockland CSD, NY.

Paula Cancro, Higher Ed Leadership Cohort 3, was promoted to Interim Dean of Online Learning & Instructional Design at College of Westchester, NY.

Emerly A. Martinez, Signature Pathway Cohort 9, was appointed Principal of White Plains High School, NY.

Jacqueline Green, Signature Pathway Cohort 10, was appointed Principal of Cecil H. Parker School (Pre-K to 8th) in Mount Vernon, NY.

Deborah Heppes, Signature Pathway Orange Ulster BOCES Cohort 1, was elected President of the New York State Insurance Reciprocal: NYSIR

Jennifer Wesolowski, Signature Pathway Cohort 10, was appointed Coordinator of AIS and 504 Services K-12 at Lindenhurst School District in Suffolk County, Long Island, NY.
Dr. Brandon Beck, Signature Pathway Cohort 5 and Fifth Grade Dual Language Teacher (English Zone), Ossining UFSD, will be publishing his first book, *Unlocking Unlimited Potential: Understanding the knowledge and infinite power within to guide any student toward success*. (in press) Code Breaker

“After graduating from Cohort VI of the Signature Doctoral Program in 2017, I knew that I wanted to inspire as many educators as possible. My dissertation was related to ‘self-confidence.’ My main goal became to inspire as many educators believe in their limitless potential. I began taking bits and pieces from my dissertation, developing ideas, and writing. Once COVID-19 happened, I decided to take the next step and actually finished this book that I had been telling everyone I was writing for the past 3 years.

I could not have done this without the journey through the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Manhattanville. I even had some of my old professors give me advice and feedback (Now 3 years after graduating) throughout the drafting process. Also, I have been an adjunct professor at Manhattanville since graduation, so I benefited from the collegial relationships in the School of Education.

Throughout all of my teaching experiences, I have been constantly encouraged to be innovative, creative, and purposeful. I have a supportive school behind me and I am very happy to continue my development.

I am very thankful for the ‘Family’ that I have found at Manhattanville.”
Alumni News

Dr. Greg Brown, Signature Pathway Cohort 8, was appointed as Deputy Superintendent for Hyde Park Central School District.

Hear him speak.

Dr. Brown also participated in a panel discussion entitled, “Improving Remote Learning for School Leaders Part Two: What Teachers Need and Want YOU to Know,” hosted by the School Administrators Association of New York State. Read on!

Dr. Ray Sanchez, Dissertation Completion Pathway Cohort 2, and Ossining Superintendent received the Lower Hudson Council School Superintendents Distinguished Service Award. In presenting the award, Dobbs Ferry Superintendent Lisa Brady said, “You represent LHC OSS with dignity, passion for kids, schools and communities, and with a relentless emphasis on the moral obligations that we – as superintendents – have to our schools and communities. Your grace and poise help to engender collaboration, even when the will for collaboration might not normally exist,” - River Journal, June 13, 2020.
Alumni News

Alumnae
Dr. Dulce Barker, (right) Signature Pathway Cohort 6, and Dr. Mary Keenan Foster (far right), Signature Pathway Cohort 4, were Keynote Speakers at the Manhattanville School of Education Dean’s Symposium: Lessons Learned for Moving Forward During Covid-19 on October 1, 2020.

Dr. Ellen McDonnell,
Signature Pathway Cohort 4, was appointed as the new Director of Innovative Technology, Arlington Central School District.

Dr. Lisa Marie Spindler, Signature Pathway Cohort 4, was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Finance/CFO of Newburgh Central Schools.

Dr. Samantha Ross, Higher Ed Leadership Cohort 2, presented Examining Bystander Intervention Decision-Making in Potential Sexual Assault Situations on October 22, 2020 at CSPA-NYS, 2020 Annual Conference. Dr. Ross also did an interview with the USMA Center for Oral History about her career. Watch the interview.
Dr. Brian Doherty, Signature Pathway Cohort 3, published an online article on the Local Union of Professional Musicians 802 website entitled, “Remote Teaching: How a public school music teacher figured it out…and how you can too!” Read on.

Dr. Gail Duffy, Signature Pathway Cohort 5, was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Instruction at Public School of the Tarrytowns.

Dr. Janety Encarnación, Dissertation Completion Pathway Cohort 4, appointed Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education at the New Paltz Central School District.

Dr. Encarnación was also interviewed on September 23, 2020, in Radio Kingston’s La Voz, a radio show that highlights community leaders that may have an impact on the Hudson Valley community. She was introduced as the new Director of PPS and Special Education of the New Paltz Central School District. Listen in.

Dr. Andrew Ecker, Signature Pathway Cohort 5 and Coordinator of the Guidance & Child Study Center at Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES, presented online with NAMI Westchester; “Your Child’s Mental Health and School Reopening”.

Dr. Margaret Podesta McDonald, Signature Pathway Cohort 6, created a podcast and a webinar with Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES on the topic of Professional Development for Elementary Principals, the subject of Dr. Podesta McDonald’s dissertation. Watch the video.

Dr. Derek Schuelein, Signature Pathway Cohort 6, was appointed Principal of Rye High School. Read the welcome.
Alumni Spotlight

Congratulations to Congressman elect for #NY16 Jamaal Bowman, alumnus of the Manhattanville Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

Jamaal Bowman is an educator, husband, father of three and champion of children and working families. He was raised by a single mother in East Harlem, living in a rent-controlled apartment on the Upper Eastside. Jamaal and his mother lived on her post office worker’s salary and were fortunate to enjoy living in a diverse community. Jamaal now lives with his wife and three children in Yonkers.

After graduating from the University of New Haven, Jamaal quickly returned to the Bronx to become a public school teacher, spending his first five years in education teaching at a minority-majority public school. He went on to earn a Master’s Degree in Guidance Counseling from Mercy College and his EdD from Manhattanville College Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership.

... a major victory for progressives.

Watch his thank you video.
Dr. Ken Mitchell, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, presented on August 5-6 at the ICPEL 2020 Virtual Conference – “The Virtual Shift in Education on Asynchronous-Leadership Training K-12.” See more.


Dr. Robert Monson recorded a podcast for the Center for Teacher Development at Teacher’s College titled, “Teaching in a Synchronous Online Environment.”

Dr. Monson also contributed an article for the American Association of School Administrators on the challenges new superintendents are facing in the COVID pandemic titled, “Counseling School Leaders for the Unseen and the Uncertain.” November 2020. Read the article.

Dr. Susan Iverson, Professor & Director, Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership & Coordinator, Higher Education Leadership concentration at Manhattanville College, will be presenting, "Interrogating and Navigating Feminist Leadership Initiatives in the Academy," with Angela Clark-Taylor (Case Western) and Cassie Pegg-Kirby (Kent State) at Seneca Falls Dialogues, October 24, 2020, Dialogue 3b.

Using Wakefield’s (2017) work on feminist leadership developed in transnational context, this dialogue will focus on the role of women’s centers in promoting women’s leadership in the academia that seeks to foster feminist praxis and structural change within the higher education system that advances anti-racist, anti-imperialist, and decolonial epistemologies. Follow this.

Reflections From a Doctoral Student Amidst the Pandemic

- Jennifer Wesolowski, Signature Pathway Cohort 10

Last weekend my nieces taught me their latest TikTok dance routine. After making them promise not to post my embarrassing attempts online, we danced and laughed together. (Really, they laughed at me, but I digress.) Not surprisingly, their pre-teen fingers were a blur when they were showing me their favorite pictures and videos on their devices. Online media is the vehicle through which this generation of students seeks social connection. Even though my generation is not as tech savvy as my nieces’, we are united by the desire to be socially connected and share our learning with others. Seeking human connection is not the trait of a generation, but rather a demonstration of our humanity.

I have to confess that I have never recorded a TikTok video with my fellow members of Manhattanville’s Signature Cohort Ten. However since we started the program, we have an ongoing chat through which we constantly pose questions and issues to our group, along with family photos, and of course funny memes. Now that we are entering year three, we have set up a weekly Zoom call for writing support and accountability. The need for technology is not what drives our interactions. The desire to connect with each other and leverage those relationships for professional and personal growth is one of the best parts of Manhattanville’s cohort model. Read on.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this volume.

Renée Gargano, Editor and Producer
Dr. Susan Iverson, Editor
Dominique Mason, Graphic Design and Production
Pat Gannon, Copy Editor
Heidi Sakanaka, Copy Editor
Jennifer Wesolowski, Copy Editor and Writer
Dr. Barbara Allen-Lyall, Copy Editor
Dr. Joseph Phillips, Copy Editor