

Faculty Information

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Superintendent Preparation and Certification Program Executive Leadership

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Superintendent Preparation and Certification Program

Department of Educational Leadership
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WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE PROGRAM

“The Executive Leadership Program through both the academic work and the internship experience, provided me with a broader lens and enhanced skill set to cultivate teaching and leadership throughout the school system. It provided me with a synthesized and coherent view of the role of the superintendent which informs my leadership practice today.”

—Karen Baldwin, Superintendent, Suffield, CT



“I recommend the Executive Leadership Program to any school administrator aspiring to work in a

central office leadership position. One of the most valuable aspects of the program lies in its ability to assist principals in shifting their leadership perspectives from a building focus to a district focus. To this end, the combination of the targeted coursework and the internship experience with a veteran superintendent proved to be very worthwhile. As educators, we have an obligation to improve learning outcomes for all students, and the Executive Leadership Program provides cohort members with the knowledge, skills, and tools required to make this goal a reality.”

—Mark Zito, Superintendent, Rocky Hill, CT



“The Neag School of Education’s Executive Leadership Program is highly regarded by school system leaders in CT. This regard is based on the fact that a very high percentage of graduates of the Program go on in their own right to be highly effective school system leaders who are able to meet the myriad responsibilities of school system leadership in a way that blends all of those actions into programs that effectively increase achievement for all students. Anyone who aspires to school system leadership should give serious consideration to enrolling in the Program.”

—Joseph Cirusuolo, Executive Director Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents



Executive Leadership Program

SUPERINTENDENT PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Program Goals

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- Provide prospective superintendents with the background and knowledge necessary to successfully meet the challenges of the 21st century superintendency.
- Provide course work and structured clinical experiences that prepare participants to demonstrate mastery of CT School Leaders Standards (2011).
- The Executive Leadership Program leads to a UConn Institutional endorsement for the CT 093 superintendent certification.

Relationship to the Ed.D. Program in Educational Administration

The goal of all programs in the Department of Educational Leadership is to develop leaders who have the skills and knowledge required to guide systemic school and school district reform. To this end the Executive Leadership Program is linked conceptually with the Ed.D. program. In the Executive Leadership Program participants learn the practical skills necessary to address problems of practice associated with district leadership. The Ed.D. program builds upon and extends these skills. Specifically, the focus in the Ed.D. program is on developing an educational leader's ability to (a) lead a district-wide inquiry process that explores and identifies the systemic and root causes of problems of practice and (b) formulate solutions based on this inquiry that have conceptual depth and breadth. Students who complete the 093 program will be given priority consideration in the Ed.D. Program application process.

Application and Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Executive Leadership Program, the applicant must submit the materials listed below by April 1. Required materials include:

- A completed application; <http://neag.uconn.edu/execlead-appform/>
- Transcripts of all college and university graduate work.
- A personal statement from the applicant regarding his/her professional aspirations related to school district leadership and prior experiences in educational leadership (one page).
- Two written recommendations attesting to how the education and /or professional experiences of the applicant have prepared him/her to successfully meet requirements of the Executive Leadership Program.

A committee consisting of UConn faculty will review all applications and select qualified candidates for admissions interviews in March and April.

Criteria for acceptance include: a Master's degree and a minimum of 15 appropriately related graduate credits beyond Master's, successful educational leadership experience, demonstrated ability to sustain positive professional relationships, demonstrated capacity to manage complex organizations, demonstrated ability to solve complex problems, positive professional references, high quality interview and academic record.

Ordinarily applicants have served successfully for four (4) or more years in a position that requires the Connecticut Intermediate Administrator Certificate, such as a principal or central office leader.

Program Structure-Cohort Model

(13 MONTHS/15 CREDITS)

- Five (5) three-credit courses including an internship (3 credits). Participants can expect to attain their CT 093 certification in one year upon satisfactory completion of this program.

- Superintendent Internship—The internship or clinical practicum is a key component of the



program. Participants are paired with an experienced superintendent mentor. Internship experiences typically take place on evenings, Saturdays, vacation periods, and during the regular school week. Participants use

professional development and vacation time to meet this requirement. The internship culminates with a Capstone Project completed during the spring semester in the cohort member's district in cooperation with the superintendent. The ELP Internship is coordinated and supported through a partnership between the Department of Educational Leadership and the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS).

- Each course is delivered through a balance of academic and practitioner perspectives and emphasizes applied theory and case studies around authentic district leadership problems of practice.

- University and clinical faculty will serve as instructors in this program. Experienced superintendents and state policy-makers play an active role in the in "Neag/CAPSS Best Practices Seminars."

- Special Education course work, a requirement for the CT superintendent's certificate, will be incorporated throughout the program.

- Location: All sessions will be held in a Hartford location.

Course Work

EDLR 6301 School District Executive Leadership (5 day summer schedule)

EDLR 6302 School District Policy, Politics and Governance (Fall Semester- 6 sessions)

EDLR 6303 Data-Driven Decision Making for School Improvement and Policy Development (Spring Semester- 6 sessions)

EDLR 6304 Financial and Human Resources Management in Education (5 day summer schedule—second summer)

EDLR 6092 Internship/Practicum- (1 year)

