Letter from the Chair

Greetings, Educational Leaders:

On behalf of the Educational Leadership Department, we hope you had a wonderful February break and a happy and productive February! The Spring semester is well underway with a robust group of graduate students studying, researching, and applying their growing knowledge and skill sets to their schools and districts. Our department takes pride in the number of applied projects we

In addition to our on campus Portland programs in Educational Leadership and Professional Educator, we are also offering courses on the Lewiston-Auburn campus, in Oxford Hills, and in York County. Additionally, we begun a new Leaders of Tomorrows Schools (LTS) cohort in Scarborough. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside of so many educational leaders. Thank you to our immensely talented full-time and part-time faculty whom are dedicated to making these experiences a reality for our students!

Our Professional Educator degree will undergo a name change to Teacher Leadership which reflects the goal of this self-designed degree program to promote and strengthen the role of teacher leadership across a variety of contexts and content areas. As it stands, this 30-credit hour degree engages students in 15 credits of core courses and then allows for 12 self-designed credits in areas of interest to individual students and culminates in a capstone action research course.

This degree is a highly flexible degree, allowing graduate students to pursue various areas of interest. For the 12 concentration credits, some students prefer to couple the Teacher Leadership degree with an existing graduate certificate program, such as TESOL. Others choose to mix and match courses to meet their career aspirations or their professional interests, such as advanced courses in educational leadership, music, literacy, sciences, math, special education, instructional technology, etc. Other students bring in classes offered by the Professional Development Center on any number of timely subjects. A new option for USM students is the new concentration in Food Studies, which is essentially a series of courses in sustainability.

Beginning this coming Fall 2019, we will extend our program’s reach significantly through the redesign of our Teacher Leadership degree in a brand new format. USM Educational Leadership Department, as well as TESOL and Special Education, have partnered with Academic Partnerships to offer a 30-credit accelerated online degree. Our offering will be a master’s degree in Teacher Leadership with a concentration in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Each course will
run for 7 weeks with 6 start times beginning every 8 weeks (Fall 1, Fall 2, Spring 1, Spring 2, Summer 1, Summer 2). We will offer two accelerated courses per start time, allowing full-time students to complete their entire degree in under a year, with options for part-time students to complete the degree within 20 months.

We are incredibly excited about our upcoming 4th annual Assessment for Learning and Leading Conference on May 6-7 at Abromson Center here at USM! This year’s theme centers around Brain-Based Strategies to Cultivate a Positive Learning Environment. Our renowned feature keynoter and author, Dr. Marcia Tate, is guaranteed to blow you away! Jeff and I were privileged to see her in action this past July at Hattie’s Visible Learning Conference in Chicago and have been finagling ever since to bring her to Maine. You won’t want to miss her interactive presentations. You will leave with brain-based teaching and assessment strategies you can implement immediately in your classrooms and faculty rooms to improve learning and engagement. Register today!

We hope to see you at our upcoming Southern Maine Partnership events, including our Principals/Building Leaders meeting Thursday morning, April 4th from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at Mt. Ararat Middle School in Topsham with Principal Josh Ottow. We also invite you to join us for our second Visual Learning Strategies: Mind Mapping, Concept Mapping and Sketchnoting session on Tuesday, March 26th from 4:15-6:30. Please see the SMP Upcoming Events section later in the newsletter for registration links and more information.

Summer is just around the corner - well, at least our summer course schedule and registration is! :) We have a robust summer course offering and invite you to take advantage of furthering your education during the May-August time frame. We have one-week intensives, seven-week, and fifteen-week offerings; live, online, and blended delivery models are also offered.

Respectfully,
Anita Stewart McCafferty
Southern Maine Partnership

Update:
The Southern Maine Partnership held a forum on Instructional Coaching and Mentoring on Wednesday, January 23. The session was led by Dr. Anita Stewart McCafferty and was attended by over fifteen coaches from a wide variety of schools and school districts. Participants described different coaching categories - literacy, math, instructional, technology, and assessment for learning coaches. Many of the coaches filled more than one category, and many were multitasking with responsibilities for RtI, tech integration, “ed tech” coordinators, and other roles. The field of coaching is tenuous due to the incomplete expectations of just what a coach is and is capable of doing, and the tendency for unexpected shifts in job expectations. We talked about the shift from working with younger students to the primary audience for coaches, adult teachers, and posed this question, what are the similarities and differences between adults and younger students, and what are the implications for your effectiveness as a coach? Adult development is critically intertwined with professional growth. Dr. Stewart McCafferty is a leader in the state teacher mentoring program in Maine, and she reminded the group that a mentoring program is a requirement for all school districts, especially for incoming teachers at the beginning of their careers. In spite of that, some coaches reported that coaching and mentoring are still seen as separate professional activities in many school districts. More information and more opportunities to talk about coaching and mentoring will come at the May 6 and 7 conference.

Upcoming SMP Events:

Principals/Building Leaders Meeting:

April 4th - Mt. Ararat Middle School, Topsham with Principal Dr. Josh Ottow

Focus: The focus of the visit will be on improving the rate of students’ growth in math and reading through a renewed vision for how all students are supported. Mt. Ararat Middle School has been involved in a four-plus year overhaul of our RTI/MTSS visioning, they call "Supporting Hope and Engagement." It is still very much a work in progress, but they have seen positive gains in both reading and math achievement over the years, with a particular focus on "Catch Up Growth" for those students below grade level proficiency. MAMS' staff has also responded well to the changes and this stakeholder buy-in been instrumental in the growth they have seen. The visit will involve classroom visits and conversations with teachers and leaders at the school.

Registration link: https://goo.gl/forms/ZiZCXxITUATJw5yi2
GIFTS Series - Part 2
Tuesday, March 26, 4:15-6:30, Portland campus, room TBA

This will be a follow up session to November 28, and just as even more exciting. Participants will share strategies in the form of visual evidence from their efforts to work with concept maps and sketch-notes, and be able to interact in a critical friends peer feedback protocol to improve and refine strategies. Our view is that this type of evidence is innovative and useful for students and for providing data to show students’ growth.

We will go further, with more examples to explore the impact of the “drawing effect.” In a recent experimental study it is proposed that drawing improves memory, because as we draw we “transfer a word into a drawn visual representation, [and] elaborate on its meaning and semantic features, engage in the actual hand movements needed for drawing (motor action), and visually inspect one’s created picture (pictorial processing)” (Fernandes, Wammes, and Meade, 2018 in Current Directions in Psychological Science. Come see what exciting, effective and fun learning looks like.

Registration link: https://goo.gl/forms/IZGz0Fr6wbwbXi2I2
UPDATE! The Professional Educator soon to become Teacher Leadership Master’s Degree
Our Master’s degree, now known as the Professional Educator, will be renamed, Teacher Leadership very soon. Just to remind you, the 30-credit graduate degree is an excellent choice for teachers who want to deepen their practice in an area of choice, and improve their skills and become more effective leaders in curriculum, instruction and assessment. The structure of the degree maximizes adult learning and allows individuals to select 12-credit hours of a concentration, for example, mathematics, science, visual and performing arts. One of the programs that has a new offering ready to go, is the Food Studies program. No it’s not culinary arts, but it is about food and food systems, and food policy.

NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN FOOD STUDIES!

Does your school district have a plan for food and sustainability? Do you have a garden already, or are planning to take “edible schoolyard” approach with your own school gardens? This Fall, 2018, the Food Studies Program at USM began offering a new 12-credit graduate certificate in Food Studies. We are working with faculty like Dr. Jamie Picardy and Dr. Matt Hoffman to make connections with our master’s degree. If you have teachers who want to combine teaching, learning, and assessment with food studies, this will be a great opportunity.
Pender Makin new Commissioner of Education

On February 6, 2019 the Maine Senate confirmed Pender as the new Commissioner of Education. Pender is a graduate of our Educational Leadership Program and had a highly successful career as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent prior to assuming her new position.

Below is the testimony Jody provided at her confirmation hearing on January 31.

Senator Millett, Representative Kornfield and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. My name is Jody Capelluti. I am a Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Southern Maine and am speaking in support of Pender Makin’s confirmation as Commissioner of Education.

I was Pender’s advisor during her graduate studies in Educational Leadership at the University of Southern Maine and have followed her career since she graduated in 2008.

On January 16, I received a text from Pender telling me she was going to be speaking to a group of superintendents at a conference in South Portland and would I be able to meet prior to her speech. During that meeting she shared her excitement with being nominated. She noted how much there was to learn and do in a short period of time but she was grateful for the opportunity.

In her speech she wanted to convey what she valued and what would be her leadership style. She asked if I would attend and give feedback.

When introduced as the new commissioner she received applause which is not unusual. What was unusual was what happened after that.

While Pender was speaking I observed the behavior and reaction of the audience. Superintendents are busy professionals, often multitasking. She had their full attention. Many nodded approvingly of her “comments” and applauded when appropriate.

What was unique about their apparent affirmation is that it did not come from her promising more money to fund schools or to ease regulations and oversight.

Rather it came when she talked about her willingness to, not only listen to those who work in schools daily, but to actively seek their ideas and input before important decisions were made.

It also happened when she talked positively about all the hardworking people currently in the Department being responsive to the needs in the field-that a goal of the department would be reducing barriers to efficiency rather than creating them.

I spoke to superintendents across the state and asked them for their impressions of Pender. Some representative comments were: Breathe of fresh air; appeared willing to listen to our concerns and build
trust; selected a great Deputy Commissioner; smiled a lot and seemed eager to succeed; I liked her enthusiasm and energy; I think she will value our opinions; good choice.

Looking back to her time as a graduate student Pender was:

- a talented writer who expressed herself thoughtfully and clearly
- a speaker whose views and voice came across in an engaging manner
- a good listener who valued the opinions of others and
- an individual respected by her colleagues

My observation is that these qualities were also recognized by those who nominated Pender and reaffirms that she is the right person for this role.

In summation, I see Pender as a leader who sees problems as opportunities and who seeks creative approaches to challenging situations. She will be a diligent advocate for all the children in Maine, especially for those children who have no advocate.

She has my strongest recommendation and that of the Educational Leadership Department Faculty- Dr. Anita Stewart-McCafferty, Dr. Jeff Beaudry and our President Dr. Glenn Cummings.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

Dr. Joseph Capelluti  
Professor, Educational Leadership  
University of Southern Maine  
Joseph.capelluti@maine.edu

Jody, Pender Makin, Commissioner (08), Henry Ingwersen State Representative (09)
Dates to Remember

Priority Registration for Summer 2019                   Monday, March 4
Open registration for Summer 2019 classes begin       Wednesday, March 6
Spring break (no classes)                              Monday, March 18 – Friday, March 22
Last day to drop for a grade of "W" (Classes 12 weeks or more) Thursday, March 28
Application Deadline for Commencement                 Monday, April 1
Priority Registration for Fall 2019                   Monday, April 1 - Friday, April 12
Open Registration for Fall 2019                       Monday, April 22

School of Education and Human Development
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sehd@usm.maine.edu
http://www.usm.maine.edu/sehd

Advising Questions? Educational Leadership Faculty:
Jeffrey Beaudry 207-780-5493 jeffrey.beaudry@maine.edu
Joseph (Jody) Capelluti 207-780-5077 joseph.capelluti@maine.edu
Thomas Edwards, Adjunct 207-780-5090 thomas.k.edwards@maine.edu
Anita Stewart McCafferty 207-780-5479 anita.stewart@maine.edu
Thinking About Internship in 2019-2020?

I think I am ready for the Ed. Leadership Internship. What do I need to do?

The Internship and EDU 677: Seminar in School Management, should be the last set of courses you need to take before graduating from the Educational Leadership Master's. The internship can also be taken to fulfill the capstone requirement in our post-master's (CAS) in Educational Leadership program.

Please notify Jody Capelluti at joseph.capelluti@maine.edu as soon as possible if you believe you are ready to start the Internship with the next group, the orientation will be held at the end of April 2019. Faculty will review your transcripts and contact you to inform you of your eligibility.

When does the Internship and EDU 677 Seminar in School Management take place?

EDU 685: Principals, EDU 686: Special Ed. Director, and EDU 688: Curriculum Coordinator Internships are nine graduate credits in total (three credits a semester) that span three consecutive semesters (summer, fall, and spring, respectively). The course meets once every two or three weeks for the whole year. During the summer, the meetings take place during the day, and during the fall and spring, the meetings occur from 7-9:30 PM. Individual meetings with you, your mentor, and your instructor are scheduled three times a year.
4th Annual Assessment for Learning & Leading Conference 2019:
Brain-Based Strategies That Cultivate Positive Learning Environments

Dr. Marcia Tate
Featured Keynoter and Presenter

May 6-7, 2019  8:30-3:30  Abromson Hall, USM, Portland, ME

Registration link:
https://conferences.usm.maine.edu/attendeesonline/AutoLogin.aspx?page=new&event=2858&password=event

Cost: $225 for full conference, including materials, lunches, and snacks; $125 for 1 day; $200/person for full conference for teams of 5+

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Co-Directors: Anita Stewart McCafferty anita.stewart@maine.edu and Jeff Beaudry jeffrey.beaudry@maine.edu
**Educational Leadership Program – Summer 2019**  
(The schedule below is subject to change; be sure to check MaineStreet.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 600</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Techniques</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>4:00-6:45 pm</td>
<td>Beaudry</td>
<td>5/20-6/24</td>
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<td>EDU 600</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Techniques</td>
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<td>Cohen</td>
<td>5/20-7/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>EDU 600</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Techniques</td>
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<td>Cohen</td>
<td>7/8-8/23</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 605</td>
<td>Teaching, Learning and Assessment</td>
<td>MTWThF</td>
<td>8:30-3:30 pm</td>
<td>Beaudry</td>
<td>7/8-7/12</td>
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<td>Teaching at the Middle Level</td>
<td>MTWThF</td>
<td>8:30-3:30 pm</td>
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<td>EDU 643</td>
<td>Inquiry in Education</td>
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<td>4:00-6:45 pm</td>
<td>Beaudry</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 659</td>
<td>Special Ed Law for School Leaders</td>
<td>MTWThF</td>
<td>8:30-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Hawes</td>
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<td>School Law</td>
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<td>4:10-6:40 pm</td>
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<td>EDU 679</td>
<td>Evaluation And Supervision of Teaching</td>
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<td>EDU 699</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>TTh</td>
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<td>USM-Other</td>
<td>EDU 685</td>
<td>Internship in School Admin</td>
<td>** See meeting times below.</td>
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**Instructor permission required; the program will register students & confirm via email. If you have questions, please contact:**  
James S Douglass at 780-5316 or james.s.douglass@maine.edu

**Meeting dates for EDU 685, 686, 687 and 688:**
- An orientation will be held on Monday, April 22 at 4-5:30 PM in room 301 Bailey on the Gorham campus.
- Class meeting times & dates are: May 23 & June 6 from 4:00-6:30 pm, June 27 from 8:00-11:30 am, July 11 from 8:30-11:00 am and August 1 from 8:30-11:00 am.

<table>
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<th>LTS Cohort</th>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tr>
<td>USM-Other</td>
<td>EDU 679</td>
<td>Evaluation &amp; Supervision of School Personnel</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>4:10-7:10 pm</td>
<td>Stewart McCafferty, A</td>
<td>5/20-7/5</td>
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