Dear Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Community Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Program in Higher Education Leadership (PHEL) Newsletter. This newly created semester newsletter is the PHEL team’s response to the growing need to reach out to each other within the higher education community and share information on what is happening among our students and our alumni. We hope that this newsletter will serve to connect us all as we share and recognize the highlights and achievements of the PHEL community.

Over the past year, the PHEL faculty and staff have worked to improve the department in an effort to better serve the community of higher education.

Victor Sáenz, Ph.D.
PHEL Coordinator

Department Restructuring and Name Change: The department explored various iterations of program names before eventually settling on Program in Higher Education Leadership (PHEL). The name reflects the Community College and the Higher Education concentrations. PHEL is devoted to the scholarly study of higher education, its students and institutions, and their places in society. It also prepares students to assume leadership and administrative roles in these institutions. Less and less a world of ivory towers, higher education is being reconceived and reorganized through increased access for more diverse student communities, intensified accountability and governmental oversight, the need for lifelong avenues of learning and re-training, and the opportunities and challenges presented by digital innovations both in and out of the classroom.

New Student Cohort Model: In an effort to build stronger partnerships between concentrations, PHEL has established a cohort model for all first-year doctoral students. This model ensures that these students have access to critical courses while also having the opportunity to collaborate and network across concentrations.

PHEL Leadership: Each concentration has identified a lead to coordinate the respective efforts. Dr. Victor Sáenz serves as PHEL Coordinator and Coordinator for the Higher Education doctoral concentration. Dr. Barbara Mink coordinates the Community College doctoral concentration. Dr. Richard Reddick serves as Coordinator for the College & University Student Personnel Administration (CUSPA) master’s concentration with the help of Dr. Cassandre Alvarado.

PHEL Logo:

There is a great deal of significance behind the PHEL Star. The logo incorporates imagery and symbolism from various aspects unique to the Department of Educational Administration, The University of Texas at Austin, and the State of Texas. The PHEL “lone” star and burnt orange tie the program to Texas and UT-Austin. The interwoven star reflects the interwoven environments of community college and higher education systems. The points are unfinished and continue outwards because the work in higher education is never complete. If you look at the logos of the other degree programs within the Department of Educational Administration, you will notice that they have their own take on the “lone” star logo.
Faculty/Staff Highlights

It is with great pleasure that we recognize Dr. Richard Reddick and Dr. Jennifer Holme for being awarded tenure and being promoted to Associate Professors of Educational Administration. Both Dr. Reddick and Dr. Holme have served as inspirations for many students throughout their many years at The University of Texas at Austin. Since 2007, Dr. Reddick and Dr. Holme have helped transform the EDA department and, more importantly, the lives of many students.

Dr. Reddick's teaching and research have focused on diversity in higher education, the sociocultural adaptation of Black families, and qualitative research methods. Dr. Reddick's research on mentoring relationships between faculty and Black students includes factors influencing faculty mentorship, the role of formative experiences in professors' lives in their approach to mentoring, and the advising and counseling approaches utilized by faculty in mentoring Black students.

Dr. Reddick is an award winning teacher and scholar, the recipient of the Spring 2009 Eyes of Texas Excellence Award, 2012 Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award, the John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies Faculty Teaching Award, and the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Dr. Holme's research focuses on the politics and implementation of educational policy, with a particular focus on the relationship among school reform, equity, and diversity in schools. She specifically seeks to understand how the structure of opportunity within metropolitan areas relates to schooling conditions and outcomes for students, and to examine how educational policies interact with, or are influenced by, these larger metropolitan opportunity structures. Her research interests include: school desegregation (currently focusing on inter-district programs), high stakes testing (exit level testing); and school choice policy.

Dr. Patrick Valdez is a recent graduate of our doctoral program in the Program of Higher Education Leadership. This year he accepted a position at Lehman College (CUNY) as the Senior Academic Policy Analyst Administrative Policy Analyst Director. In this position he will be working directly with the Lehman’s president, provost, and VP of finance and administration on a major initiative to prioritize the institution’s academic and administrative programs.

Guillermo Martinez, a first-year PHEL student in the Community College concentration, received the 2014 Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) Graduate Student Fellowship Award. Each year TACHE awards fellowships to students who are pursuing graduate studies in community college education and leadership or other graduate and professional schools. Guillermo is now the fourth PHEL student in a row to receive the TACHE Graduate Student Fellowship.

PHEL has opened the application process for three awards that will recognize student and alumni excellence at the Graduation and End of Year Celebration on Friday, May 16th. PHEL invites applications for two prestigious graduate student awards and one alumni award meant to honor academic and service excellence within our scholarly and professional community. The application deadline is March 31st.

The Dr. Sharon H. Justice Student Leadership Award and The Dr. Bill Lasher Doctoral Student Excellence Award will annually recognize outstanding scholarship and professionalism by graduate students currently in our Program in Higher Education Leadership. A third award, The Dr. V. Ray Cardozier Alumni Excellence Award, will periodically recognize a graduate of the Program in Higher Education Leadership. Contact Linda Overton at linda.overton@austin.utexas.edu for more information.
The 2013 PHEL doctoral cohort has been involved in a year-long “Pro-Seminar” that was facilitated by Dr. Victor Sâenz in fall 2013, and Dr. Barbara Mink in spring 2014. As part of this course, the cohort sponsored distinguished faculty and leaders in the Speaker Series.

**Dr. Vincent Tinto**, Professor Emeritus, Syracuse University, presented his extensive work regarding college student success and development.

**Dr. Lenneal Henderson**, Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Administration, the University of Baltimore not only worked with the doctoral class on educational policy issues, but also ‘became’ Justice Thurgood Marshall in a dramatization celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Brown v Board of Education Supreme Court decision.

The fall 2013 cohort was also enrolled in an *Organization and Administration of Higher Education* course facilitated by Dr. Mink. Through this course the doctoral students not only studied models of higher educational administration, but also met face-to-face in small group seminars with senior higher educational leaders around Central Texas.

Other speakers included:

*Dr. Larry Earvin*, President, Huston-Tillotson University  
*Dr. Denise Trauth*, President, Texas State University  
*Dr. Byron McClenney*, Director, Student Success Initiatives  
*Dr. Bill Powers*, President, The University of Texas at Austin  
*Dr. Kay McClenney*, Director, Center for Community College Student Engagement  
*Dr. Richard Rhodes*, President, Austin Community College District  
*The Honorable Kirk Watson*, Texas State Senator  
*Provosts* from St. Edward’s University, Concordia University, and Austin Community College District

---

**PHEL Semester Newsletter (Spring 2014)**

**Department Highlights**

The 2013 PHEL doctoral cohort has been involved in a year-long “Pro-Seminar” that was facilitated by Dr. Victor Sâenz in fall 2013, and Dr. Barbara Mink in spring 2014. As part of this course, the cohort sponsored distinguished faculty and leaders in the Speaker Series.

**Dr. Vincent Tinto**, Professor Emeritus, Syracuse University, presented his extensive work regarding college student success and development.

**Dr. Lenneal Henderson**, Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Administration, the University of Baltimore not only worked with the doctoral class on educational policy issues, but also ‘became’ Justice Thurgood Marshall in a dramatization celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Brown v Board of Education Supreme Court decision.

The fall 2013 cohort was also enrolled in an *Organization and Administration of Higher Education* course facilitated by Dr. Mink. Through this course the doctoral students not only studied models of higher educational administration, but also met face-to-face in small group seminars with senior higher educational leaders around Central Texas.

Other speakers included:

*Dr. Larry Earvin*, President, Huston-Tillotson University  
*Dr. Denise Trauth*, President, Texas State University  
*Dr. Byron McClenney*, Director, Student Success Initiatives  
*Dr. Bill Powers*, President, The University of Texas at Austin  
*Dr. Kay McClenney*, Director, Center for Community College Student Engagement  
*Dr. Richard Rhodes*, President, Austin Community College District  
*The Honorable Kirk Watson*, Texas State Senator  
*Provosts* from St. Edward’s University, Concordia University, and Austin Community College District
National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) 2014

International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence
May 25 – 28 • Austin, Texas


NISOD’s International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence is the definitive gathering of community and technical college faculty, administrators, and staff seeking to engage in deep conversations about best and promising practices designed to improve student achievement.

At community and technical colleges around the world, changes are happening at a rapid pace. Stay ahead of the curve and demonstrate your commitment to your profession and to your students by participating in NISOD’s International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, May 25-28, at the Austin Convention Center. Early-bird registration ends May 2, 2014.

Keynote speakers include Isa Adney, Author, *Community College Success*; Tina Gridiron, Program Officer, Lumina Foundation; Richard D. Kahlenberg, Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation; and Ronald L. Baker, CEO and Principal Consultant, Baker Collegiate Consulting.

The Administrator Series will provide opportunities for participants to strengthen their leadership by discussing and sharing real-world solutions to today’s demanding campus challenges. Special Sessions feature engaging and inspirational national experts who explore topics specifically developed for the NISOD audience.

Conference Features:

- Exemplary practices and programs explored during special sessions, breakout sessions, roundtable discussions, and poster sessions.
- Intensive, hands-on preconference workshops facilitated by teaching and learning experts.
- An exciting exhibit hall featuring NISOD partners and supporters demonstrating products and service.
- NISOD’s College Showcase highlighting best practices in colleges across North America and beyond.
- The Administrator Series, during which upper-level administrators share real-world solutions to today’s demanding campus challenges.

Preconference Seminars:

These special preconference seminars provide intensive, collaborative, hands-on opportunities for exploring leading-edge teaching and learning skills and strategies. Participants leave with skills, knowledge, and materials they can immediately use in their own teaching and learning practice.

- Promoting Academic Success for Men of Color With Student Focus Groups
- Making Front Door Engagement Inescapable: A National Model for Improving Developmental Educational Administration
Info for Current Students

HEASPA Corner

- The Higher Education Administration Student Professional Association (HEASPA) has been awarded the "January 2014 Outstanding Student Organization of the Month" by the Longhorn Center for Civic Engagement & the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. This is largely due to the outreach and volunteerism on behalf of the members who dedicate one hour each week to serve as reading coaches to elementary and middle school students in under-served/low-performing schools around Austin.

- HEASPA would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend the Graduation and End of Year Celebration on Friday, May 16th from 4:00-6:00pm in SAC Ballroom North. This will be another time for fellowship and celebration for the PHEL community.

- This year, HEASPA officers have been committed to invigorating the PHEL student base. HEASPA hopes you will join their efforts by attending one of their many events, and also by joining our LinkedIn group: Higher Education Administration Student Professional Association (HEASPA) at UT-Austin.

- If you have any suggestions for strengthening the personal, professional, and academic opportunities for students, please feel free to reach out to the HEASPA chairs.

For more information on HEASPA events contact: utexas.heaspa@gmail.com

And follow us on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/texasheaspa

Or on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/texasheaspa