



DOCTORATE in LEARNING and LEADERSHIP *Learn. Collaborate. Lead.*

SPRING / SUMMER 2020

“Learning and Leadership are indispensable to each another.”
- John F. Kennedy



The multidisciplinary Learning and Leadership Doctoral Program equips participants with an understanding of the relationship that learning plays in the leadership process. The program philosophy supports the development of reflective practitioners in a variety of organizations and focuses on the interwoven nature of learning and leadership.

Welcome Cohort 16

We welcomed 15 participants to the LEAD program this Spring. Each participant is currently enrolled in the foundational course, Learning & Leadership Integration & Assimilation, which is being offered virtually this Summer. Members of C16 represent diverse backgrounds including Higher Education Administration/Instruction, Athletic Training, Criminal Justice, Government, Health Services, Consulting, etc.



- Learning
- Leadership
- Research
- Measurement
- Organizational Effectiveness
- Technology and Innovation
- Communication



Congratulations, Dr. Bernard

This Summer, Dr. Hinsdale Bernard, retired from the university and relocated to Phoenix, AZ, to be closer to family. Dr. Bernard will continue to serve on LEAD Dissertation Committees. Please join us in thanking Dr. Bernard (Hinsdale-Bernard@utc.edu) for 15 years of service to the LEAD program.

Thank you from the LEAD Faculty & Staff

The past several months have provided unique challenges for each member of our LEAD community in various ways. We are continually impressed by your adaptability, resilience, and ongoing engagement in the learning process. We look forward to continuing the journey with you in Fall 2020.

Please send us your news

If you have any professional and/or personal news that you would be willing to share, please visit the following link: [Learning and Leadership News Update](#)



Participant News

- With funding from a USDA grant, **Walter Battle** collaborated with Extension professionals to assist small, beginning, and limited resource farmers in developing risk management plans for operations in TN, AR, & MS.
- **Layne Bryant** received the Outstanding Adjunct Award for MTSU's University College for the 2019-2020 academic year.
- **Justin Crowe** has been named Director and Statewide Program Leader for Tennessee4H.
- **Jessica Ghazi** was among 9 teachers statewide named to the inaugural TN Teacher Ambassador Network and was also a finalist for the PEF Transforming Public Education Award: Teacher Leadership.
- **Cecily Honeycutt** was recognized as Educator of the Week (Golden Apple Award) last year. Ms. Honeycutt has accepted the position of Upper School History Instructor at the Baylor School.
- **Adlai Hurt** co-presented on the topic of "Shared Fundraising Credit: Benefits, Trade-offs, and Best Practices" at the 2019 Engineering Development Forum hosted at the University of California, San Diego.
- **Jackie Johnson** and her husband welcomed a daughter, Camryn Rhea, this Spring.
- **Crystal Mayer** accepted a position as Instructional Coach at Spring Creek Elementary. This position has allowed the opportunity to support teachers with their practice.
- **Antonio Meeks** has been named Chief Learning Officer (CLO) to the State of Tennessee. As CLO, Antonio is focused on learning and leadership development as core values across state government.
- **Tomi Rogers** had the privilege to graduate from a 12-month Leadership Academy at the Institute for Public Service (IPS). Participants toured UT campuses/institutes and Fortune 500 companies.
- **Kimberly Shurett** has served as a member of the TN Rural Principals Network, member and committee chairperson for the Principals Study Council, and member of the TN Early Literacy Network.
- **Josh Tucker** and his wife welcomed their second child, Felicity, last year.
- **Caesar Wood** accepted the position of Director of Auxiliary Services at Cloud County Community College last year.

Alumni News



The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.
- Jim Rohn



- **Dr. Nicole Cobb** has accepted the position of full-time faculty and Associate Chair of the Human and Organizational Development department at Vanderbilt University.
- **Dr. Steven Hood** serves as Associate Vice President for Student Life at the University of Alabama which includes oversight of Housing, Assessment & Planning, Business Activities, and Web Development and employees approximately 350 employees.
- **Dr. Mike Jaynes** was invited to teach the core 12-hour humanities sequence for the UTC Honors College last year.
- **Dr. Matt Johnson** has transitioned from a faculty position at Bryan College to Coordinator for the Bible History Program at the Hamilton County Schools District Office. He and his wife welcomed their first child, Elliott, last year. Dr. Johnson was accepted to the Religion & Education Summer Institute at Harvard University's Religious Literacy Project.
- **Dr. Joyce McPherson's** research article was published in the Journal of Global Literacies, Technologies, & Emerging Pedagogies. She also received a grant from ArtsBuild to conduct a 9 month Shakespeare Workshop and presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Research Network forum., and Research Dialogues.
- **Dr. Etta (Crittenden) Patterson** was awarded the rank of full professor at Welch College. She attributes a large portion of the promotion portfolio to her work in the doctoral program.
- **Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Pennington** was named the Dean of Social Sciences and Learning Design at Covenant College. She is assisting with curriculum design, assessment, and faculty development and is grateful to the support she received from the doctoral faculty/staff as she applies the leadership and learning concepts to her professional practice.

Alumni News (Continued)



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- **Dr. Bradley Reynolds** has enjoyed publication success and is currently serving as Associate Head within the UTC Department of Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science. He has received the Outstanding Teacher (Lecturer) award at the college and university level in recent years.
- **Dr. Mick Shuran** has accepted the position of Director of Instruction, an assistant superintendent position, with Manchester City Schools. He has added the title of Federal programs to his title and provides professional learning opportunities in the areas of leadership, technology, and effective teaching strategies district and state-wide.
- **Dr. Gerald Stark** was invited to serve as Chair of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetics for their Research Council.
- **Dr. Stacy Swafford**, department chair of TN Wesleyan's school of business, was selected to serve as co-chair of the QEP team tasked with preparing a presentation for the SACSCOC team in Spring 2020.
- **Dr. Ashley Aldridge-Wilson** was named the 2020 National Distinguished Principal from Tennessee by the Tennessee Principals Association. She was awarded this honor for her collaborative leadership vision, which includes shared leadership at every level, reflective dialogue and learning, and a collective focus on student achievement.
- **Dr. David Weitz** has served as key note speaker at several invitation-only business conferences and has coached several law firms across the country on improving their internal Learning and Leadership skills in the legal environment.
- **Dr. Stephanie Young** has accepted the position of associate faculty in Special Education with Ashford University and launched Educational Access Serving Youth (EASY), LLC, supporting students on their pursuit of passion, purpose, and profession.