As 2015 comes to a close the states received a gift from the federal government in the form of new legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act. The headlines say that power is now shifted to the states, with a reduction in the footprint of standardized testing. Instead of the federal government setting goals based on intricate formulas of test results, the power is now shifted to our hands. A major implication for the states and for all of us will be the need for high quality classroom assessment and school district assessment systems to provide evidence of student growth.

This is a time for renewed emphasis on the power of students, teachers, and school leaders. Students need to be continually reflecting on who they are as learners, to self-assess and self-regulate, and students must feel that they have positive, productive connections with teachers and adults in their community. Teachers need to seek out and relentlessly apply high-impact formative assessment strategies to accelerate the growth of students; strategies like clear learning targets, emphasis on student work, descriptive feedback, goal setting in order to create an environment that facilitates students’ growth. School leaders need to adopt high-impact strategies to bring out the best in teachers, students and parents – the development and support of high quality teachers and rich, engaging curriculum.

Along with my colleagues, Anita and Jody, and the Educational Leadership Advisory Committee we have developed relevant graduate programs and strong community partnerships, and set our own goals to develop teacher and school district leaders. Now, more than ever, we need to reach out to collaborate with you to solve difficult problems, to improve our communities and, most of all, to support student growth.

There are two areas of emphasis that have consumed our energy, the doctoral program in public policy and education, and the Southern Maine Partnership. At this point we are proud to announce the completion of over 75% of the doctoral students, with two more doctoral dissertations in the past month:

Grace Valenzuela  Academic Achievement of First, Second, and 1.5 Generation Students of Refugee Backgrounds

Amy Johnson  Preparing for Changes in Teacher Preparation Program Accountability: Evaluating the Use of Job Placement Rates as a Measure of Program Quality

We have the support to continue the Doctoral Program and will have a second informational session in January (more information inside this newsletter).
The Southern Maine Partnership continues to grow and diversity its offerings. Of special note is the teacher leadership sessions planned for Spring, 2016. From February – April we are have scheduled teacher leader sessions to collaborate with Jan Chappuis, author of *The Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning*. This is an opportunity to work on high-impact strategies and assessment literacy, as teachers, as district leaders, and most of all, as collaborating partners.

Thank you for your support in 2015, a turnaround year for us at USM, and I look forward to the coming year 2016, a year of deeper professional learning and partnership.

Jeff Beaudry  (jeff.beaudry@maine.edu)

**Southern Maine Partnership Update**

Our December Teacher/Instructional Leader GIFTS session was a great hit! GIFTS stands for Great Ideas for Teaching Students or Staff. Participant leaders shared their innovative ideas (gifts) in 10 minute round table sessions; participants could choose which ‘gift’ they chose to receive for each of 3 rounds. The GIFTS protocol is always a highly engaging and productive protocol. I encourage you to borrow it for an upcoming faculty meeting or in-service workshop.

In addition to our regularly scheduled monthly leader meetings and Dine and Discuss Events, we are looking forward to a 3-part Assessment Literacy Series with assessment guru Jan Chappuis during the Spring semester! These are sessions you will not want to miss! Mark your calendars for the following dates/times:

- Monday, February 1st from 4:00 -5:30 p.m.;
- Monday, March 7th from 4:00-5:30 p.m.; and
- Monday, April 4th from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Alumni News**

**Congratulations to:**

- **Marty Bouchard**, Principal of Houlton Middle/High School is President of the Maine Principals Association for the 2016-17 year.

- **Theresa (Tree) Curran** was recently appointed Principal of Pond Cove Elementary School, Cape Elizabeth.
Two Cohort Programs to begin Fall 2016

The Educational Leadership Program is pleased to announce that it will be offering two cohort based programs beginning in fall 2016. The Leaders for Tomorrow’s Schools cohort will be starting its ninth cohort while the Teacher Leadership Cohort (originally scheduled to begin spring 2016) will begin its first cohort.

The new USM Teacher Leadership Cohort is a master of science in education degree. This 33-credit hour program is designed for educators in a variety of settings who want to increase their knowledge, deepen their practice, and develop leadership in curriculum, instruction and assessment through disciplined graduate study.

The Teacher Leadership Cohort is designed for teams of teachers from school systems who want to integrate their graduate study with important work in their school systems. A unique feature of the program is that students will take all their courses together. Embedded in all courses will be assignments relevant to the work of their schools.

Students will be expected to complete a 6-credit hour capstone experience as part of their graduate study. The capstone will focus on an educational issue of importance to the school/district and students will be expected to assume a leadership role in addressing that issue.

The Leaders for Tomorrow’s Schools (LTS) cohort will be beginning its ninth cohort. The Master of Science degree in education in educational leadership focuses on the preparation of collaborative change agents for educational settings that promote equitable learning opportunities for all students. The program of study is designed to develop general leadership perspectives and specific technical skills for people assuming roles as teacher leaders, principals, special education directors, curriculum coordinators, or superintendents.

The educational leadership program is divided into three areas of study: administration for certification as school principal, curriculum director, or director of special education.

Students in this cohort take 24 hours of classes together and then decide which administrative certification to pursue.

To be considered for either cohort students must be recommended by their school administrators. Educators with interest in either option should discuss their interest with their administrator.

Applications will be accepted during the spring 2016 semester. Individuals with questions should contact Dr. Jody Capelluti, Professor of Educational Leadership at: joseph.capelluti@maine.edu
Thinking About Internship?

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, which begins at the end of April. 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.

Summer dates for the 2016-2017 EDL Internship are:

April 25 (4 PM) – Internship Orientation, 301 Bailey Hall, USM-Gorham

The following summer classes will be held at King Middle School, Portland:
  May 18-4 pm
  June 8-4 pm
  June 29-8 am
  July 20-8 am
  August 10-8 am

Wanted: Alumni News

We would like to feature what our alumni are doing in our newsletters. If you have assumed a leadership role, presented at a conference, published an article, or received an award, please send that information to me at joseph.capelluti@maine.edu.
We are pleased to announce that we will be admitting a new cohort for the PhD in Public Policy with a concentration in educational leadership and policy for fall 2016. We are offering the following information session on the U.S.M. Portland Campus in Wishcamper Center.

Information Sessions:
Saturday, January 9 at 10:00am.
102 Wishcamper, USM Portland
(snow date, January 16 at 10:00am)

This cohort’s focus integrates courses in public policy, educational policy and leadership, research methodology and dissertation research. It is a 45-credit program designed for experienced educational leaders who are working professionals. It is not an online program. Those interested in applying to the Ph.D. will need the following minimum requirements:

1. A master’s degree in public policy, education or a related field with a minimum GPA of 3.25.
2. Submission of official GRE scores. Official scores are available for five years from date of testing.

The application cycle will begin December 15, 2015. The admission deadline will be April 1. We have updated our website with this information as well as additional and detailed admission requirements.
https://usm.maine.edu/phd-public-policy

To RSVP to an information session use the link below to complete the Google form.
http://goo.gl/forms/5YhkP9EMft
Don’t risk being closed out of a class or having a class canceled due to low enrollment, register now!

**Educational Leadership Program - Spring 2016**

(The schedule below is subject to change; be sure to check MaineStreet.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE/INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>EDU 600</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Techniques</td>
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<td>Beaudry</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 600</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Techniques</td>
<td>Th</td>
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<td>Research Methods &amp; Techniques</td>
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<td>4:10-6:40P</td>
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<td>EDU 603</td>
<td>Analysis of Teaching &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4:10-6:40P</td>
<td>Stewart McCafferty</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 659</td>
<td>Special Ed Law for School Leaders</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>4:10-6:40P</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 604</td>
<td>Curriculum Development</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>4:10-6:40P</td>
<td>Culbertson</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 667</td>
<td>Professional Ed Capstone(with EDU 699)**</td>
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<td>Gorham</td>
<td>EDU 670</td>
<td>Introduction to Educational Leadership</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4:10-6:40P</td>
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<td>EDU 671</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4:10-6:40P</td>
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<td>P-Other</td>
<td>EDU 677</td>
<td>Seminar in School Management **</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4:00-6:30P</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 678</td>
<td>School Law</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>4:10-6:40P</td>
<td>Forster</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 679</td>
<td>Eval &amp; Supervision of School Personnel</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>4:10-6:40P</td>
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<tr>
<td>P-Other</td>
<td>EDU 685</td>
<td>Internship in School Admin **</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>7:00-9:30P</td>
<td>Stewart McCafferty</td>
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<td>P-Other</td>
<td>EDU 685</td>
<td>Internship in School Admin **</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>7:00-9:30P</td>
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<td>P-Other</td>
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<td>7:00-9:30P</td>
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<td>P-Other</td>
<td>EDU 688</td>
<td>Internship in Curriculum Admin **</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>7:00-9:30P</td>
<td>Capelluti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>EDU 699</td>
<td>Independent Study (with EDU 667)**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beaudry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Instructor permission required; program staff will register students & confirm via email.**

If you have questions, contact Kerry Bertalan at 780-5316
Dates to Remember

**January 5, 2016:** Billing due date for spring ’16 classes

**January 19, 2016:** Spring ’16 Semester begins

**February 1, 2016:** Last day to drop for 100% refund (classes 12 weeks or more)

**February 15-19, 2016:** Winter Break

**March 1, 2016:** Summer registration begins for matriculated students

**March 28-April 1, 2016:** Spring Break

**March 28, 2016:** Last day for a grade of “W” (classes 12 weeks or more)

**May 7-13, 2016:** Final Exam Week

**May 14, 2016:** Commencement

School of Education and Human Development
8 Bailey Hall
207-780-5316
usmsehd@maine.edu
http://www.usm.maine.edu/sehd

Advising Questions? Educational Leadership Faculty:

<table>
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<th>Phone</th>
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<td>207-780-5316</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bertalan@maine.edu">bertalan@maine.edu</a></td>
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