

Benedictine College Graduate Programs in Education

Spring 2012

In this Issue . . .

The Benedictine College Education Department has developed a new Master of Arts in Education Program focused on Teacher Leadership. The first cohort of this program began in August 2011. Read more on page 2.

Congratulations to our students and alumni who are in new administrative positions in Catholic schools this year. Read more on page 3.

The Master of Arts in School Leadership Program has undergone some changes. The program, which previously took 2.7 years to complete, is now a two-year program and we have new classroom facilities. Read more on page 2.



Catholic colleges and universities have been called to prepare teachers and administrators "to provide an exceptional educational experience – one that is both truly Catholic and of the highest academic quality" USCCB. In keeping with this, the Education Department at Benedictine College has developed graduate programs with cohorts in the Kansas City metro area devoted to preparing future Catholic school principals and developing the skills of Catholic school teacher leaders. These programs are nationally and state accredited and our faculty are or have been administrators and teachers, most with Catholic school experience. The Master of Arts in School Leadership (MASL) program leads to P-12 licensure as a building principal in both Kansas and Missouri while the Master of Arts in Education (M.Ed.) prepares students for the Teacher Leader endorsement in Kansas. We are proud to offer Catholic school teachers a reduced tuition rate as a part of our commitment to Catholic education.

New Program, New Format!



Through the MASL program at Benedictine College I was very well prepared for the challenges and responsibilities of school leadership. The cohort structure afforded me many opportunities to build relationships and network with other school leaders. The curriculum is rigorous, class discussions are lively, and the faculty brings a wealth of knowledge and practical experience to make for an excellent program!

Susan Scalard, Principal
St. James Catholic
Elementary
St. Joseph, MO
MASL Class of 2006

The same quality MASL program gets a new look and a new M.Ed. program begins.

New Master of Arts in Education

This past fall the Benedictine graduate programs launched the first cohort of the Master of Arts in Education (M.Ed.) program with an emphasis on teacher leadership. This program is designed for teachers who are looking to not only expand on their knowledge of Catholic schools, teaching, student learning and meeting their professional development goals, but also gain knowledge and competencies for vital roles in the schools managing curriculum projects, mentoring, peer-coaching, facilitating teacher study groups, providing training, and leading school improvement and accreditation activities.

Because teachers have the first-hand knowledge of what is needed to improve student learning, promoting and supporting teacher leadership is crucial to continued school improvement. But teacher leaders need specific knowledge, skills, and dispositions to be successful. To strengthen this capacity in teachers, the Benedictine M.Ed. program provides teachers with the resources they need through courses covering communication and collaboration with colleagues, models and strategies in teaching, current trends and issues that influence education,

research, curriculum development, mentoring and coaching. By helping good teachers become great leaders we help to enable students to greater success. This program also prepares teachers for the specialist level Teacher Leader endorsement in Kansas.

The MASL Gets a New Look

With an additional focus on the requirements for Catholic school leadership, the Benedictine Master of Arts in School Leadership (MASL) program in Atchison and the Kansas City area has featured six Saturday classes during the spring and fall semesters (six weekday classes per course in the summers) and flexible scheduling for each course. This format allowed busy teachers to pursue their degree while still working full time. In this structure it often took teachers three years or longer to earn their degree.

The new format for the MASL program has been reduced to a two-year program by combining on-site courses with hybrid (courses that meet fewer times with heavy Blackboard support) courses. Because no one course is completely on-line and students continue to study with their cohorts, there has been no change in the quality or flexibility that are hallmarks of this long established program.

For more information on either of these programs contact the Director of the Graduate Education Programs (913) 360-7384 creding@benedictine.edu



Some of our alums at the fall principals meeting for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Catholic schools.

In the News

Our Alums

Educational Leaders as Builders of Community is embodied in the cohort structure of our programs. Our students work and learn as group rather than individuals and by graduation have developed a powerful and personal network that will assist them throughout their career. Benedictine MASL graduates have a high record of employment and career success and numerous graduates are educational administrators in surrounding areas including Atchison, St. Joseph, Topeka, Leavenworth, Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS. Currently, eighteen of our graduates are practicing school administrators in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

We wish to congratulate our MASL students and alums in new positions this year,

- Ann Connor, Associate Superintendent of Schools Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas
- Andy Tylicki, President, St. James Academy (Lenexa)
- Kathy Rhodes, Principal, St. Patrick Catholic School (KCK)
- Lynda Higgins, Principal, Resurrection Catholic School (KCK)
- Tonia Helm, Principal, St. Paul Catholic School (Olathe)
- Diane Leibsch, Principal, Atchison Catholic Elementary School

Two New Sites!

The Kansas City area cohort has moved into a new building at 5125 Roe Boulevard (just around the corner from our old site). This spacious location has multiple classrooms and strong technology capabilities. The current cohort, which completes in July, has been using this space since last spring and is very pleased with it. Those of you who are familiar with the old space take note: will be planning an open house soon. We hope to see you then!

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Find out if a Benedictine College graduate education program is right for you.

Contact Dr. Cheryl Reding
(913) 360-7384
creding@benedictine.edu
or visit us on the web at
<http://www.benedictine.edu/gradstudies>



The Benedictine Masters of Arts in School Leadership program fostered relationships that have been critical in my professional career. The individuals I encountered through this program continue to be mentors, advisors, and friends. More than once I have sought their council, and took comfort in the fact that they were not only extremely competent, but faithful to our Catholic tradition. This network of people helps me work with teachers to bring Christ to children, and children to Christ!

Tonia Helm
Principal, St. Paul's Catholic
School, Olathe Kansas
MASL Class 2005



Sites continued. . . .

In Atchison, the Education Department, **including our Graduate Programs**, has moved into the new building on the Benedictine Campus the first week in March. The \$17.9 million Ferrell Academic Center is the first new LEED-certified educational building (green) on a college or university campus in the state of Kansas. The Education department will be occupying the second floor, classrooms and seminar rooms include smart board technology and wifi capabilities.

The Ferrell Academic Center interior features many symbols of Benedictine College, including four pillars in the rotunda, the college seal mounted on the building and featured on the floor, and statues of Saints Benedict and Scholastica. Additionally, the FAC offers new spaces for presentations, receptions, and dinners. The building boasts multiple lounges, a coffee shop, seminar rooms, and one of the best views of the Missouri River in all of Atchison.

We are planning an open house for fall 2012.

Accreditation Time Nears

We are currently preparing for our joint KSDE/NCATE accreditation reviews and on-site visits. Our last visit in 2005 was very successful but our Education Department must demonstrate to these two agencies that we continue to meet the six NCATE/KSDE standards for both our undergraduate and graduate programs and that we are engaged in continuous improvement based on data.

As we prepare for this, we are gathering information from our instructors, students and alumni. In the coming weeks you may be receiving surveys and requests from the Graduate Programs Office. The department values your input and support in this endeavor.

The online work is due fall of 2012 and the on-site visit is scheduled for September of 2013. During the on-site visit, the team will likely wish to visit some of our partnership schools and meet with teachers and principals. They will also want to meet with students and alumni of our programs. If you are able, please consider assisting us during this time.

The MASL program at Benedictine College emphasizes practical concepts and skills that I utilize regularly as a school administrator. The instructors not only offer their knowledge but have first hand experience as school leaders. The preparation and opportunities afforded to me through the program were exceptional.

Mary Beth Hare
Assistant Principal, Prince of Peace
Catholic School, Olathe Kansas
MASL Class 2011

