

Newest Doctorate

Ed.D. will prepare next generation of school administrators

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA at Lafayette and Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond will jointly offer a doctorate in educational leadership starting this fall.

It's the first doctor of education program at UL Lafayette, which has eight doctor of philosophy degrees: applied language and speech sciences, environmental and evolutionary biology, cognitive science, English, Francophone studies, mathematics, computer science and computer engineering.

It's Southeastern's first doctorate. Both schools have programs leading to master's degrees in educational concentrations.

"The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has a long tradition of educating teachers, so adding this high level program to our academic offerings seemed natural," said Dr. Steve Landry, vice president for Academic Affairs at UL Lafayette.

The new doctorate is designed to produce practitioners, with an applied emphasis that distinguishes it from a doctor of philosophy degree. At the same time, the program embodies the rigor, culture and higher educational standards characteristic of all doctoral-level programs of study.

Initial candidates for the program will include educators with master's degrees in administration and supervision who are preparing for a school superintendent post or other high-level policy-making position.

UL Lafayette and Southeastern will enroll students in the program; both will identify core faculty. The new program will combine traditional face-to-face classroom instruction and distance learning alternatives, such as com-

pressed video, the Internet and interactive desktop video.

The program's proposed curriculum concentrates on four areas: research; educational leadership and management; instructional leadership; and specialization. Course work and dissertation research will total more than 60 hours of study beyond the master's degree.

UL LAFAYETTE DOCTORATES
Applied Language and Speech Sciences
Environmental and Evolutionary Biology
Cognitive Science
Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Educational Leadership*
English
Francophone Studies
Mathematics
*Offered jointly with Southeastern Louisiana University

It's expected to take three or four years for the first students to complete the program. Graduates will receive a joint degree from UL Lafayette and Southeastern.

"There was a definite need out there for this type of degree program," said Dr. Gerald Carlson, dean of the College of Education at UL Lafayette. "A survey was conducted in the service region that surrounds the university and the results indicated this program could benefit this area, along with the state and region."

Southeastern President Randy Moffet said it is looking forward to helping to develop administrators who are "visionary leaders, effective managers and change agents for improvement in our schools.

"Our schools are under increasing pressure to improve student performance. The burdens of attaining school success and individual student achievement are falling squarely on the shoulders of our school administrators.

"Today's school leaders must be prepared to focus time, energy and attention to changing what students are taught, how they are taught and what they are learning. These challenges demand a new type of school executive and this program was designed to prepare these new leaders."

Diane Allen, dean of Southeastern's College of Education and Human Development, noted there is a looming shortage of qualified school administrators. Surveys conducted in the regions around Southeastern and UL Lafayette showed that about half of school-based administrators are eligible to retire in the next five years.

"Those positions will need to be filled in the next several years," she said. "We are hoping to increase the pool of highly qualified and prepared administrators. We need to take steps now to recruit and prepare practicing educators in leadership if our schools are going to continue to improve."

The new doctoral program was approved by the Louisiana Board of Regents in February. A board composed of UL Lafayette and Southeastern representatives will govern it. ■

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