

The Educational Organization and Leadership department has a long and distinguished history. From the founding of the College of Education in 1918, university documents have described a dedicated institutional mission in the preparation of school superintendents and specialized administrative personnel for school districts, and the Educational Administration and Leadership (EAL) program developed a national reputation as early as the 1930s. Currently, the EAL program is ranked fourteenth by *U.S. News and World Report*, out of over 600 Educational Administration programs in the nation. The Higher Education (HE) program began in the 1960s, following passage of the first federal higher education legislation. In 1989 the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) was established and housed within our department. Our current name, Educational Organization and Leadership (EOL), was adopted in 1994. Our two programs offer a related but also specialized focus to ensure that our graduates are fully prepared to assume leadership positions across the full spectrum of P-20 education. At all levels, the department conducts programs of scholarly research and prepares individuals at the doctoral level in EAL, HE, and educational policy (P-20).



With over 250 students, our department has the largest graduate student enrollment in the College of Education. The demand to prepare leaders at all levels (school, school district, community college, college, and university, state and federal government) is great and—consistent with our university’s land-grant mission—our faculty has a sincere desire to be responsive to the needs of the field. The department offers off-campus cohorts in the following Illinois locations: Oak Brook (EdM and CAS), Chicago (EdM and CAS), and Oak Brook (EdD for community college executive leadership and superintendency). In addition, faculty are developing the curriculum for an online EdM degree program in Educational Leadership and Policy, emphasizing a P-20 orientation that envelopes our EAL and HE programs, which we intend to start in July 2008.

Please browse our website to familiarize yourself with our current programs, as well as the accomplishments of our faculty and students. Hopefully, you will gain an appreciation for the enthusiasm, vibrancy, and positive energy being generated within our department. Our success is dependent upon a variety of sources, including state support, external funding, donor support, student quality, and faculty productivity. Our excellence is dependent, in part, upon the continued generosity of our alumni and friends. In an era of declining state support for public higher education, private giving plays an ever-increasing role in assisting us in providing student support and sustaining departmental initiatives.

Please contact me if you have questions about our department, or if you wish to collaboratively explore ways in which the EOL can provide support to the field. I encourage our alumni and friends to keep us informed about your personal and professional accomplishments.

Donald G. Hackmann

Associate Professor and Interim Head

dghack@illinois.edu