Celebrating Our Past. Impacting Our Future.
We plan for the future, the Department of Educational Leadership is enhancing its use of technology in the implementation of new hybrid delivery models and creating new local and global partnerships to support the development of leaders who will create just, equitable, and inclusive schools and colleges.

John Hoffman, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Educational Leadership

The College of Education at Cal State Fullerton has grown and flourished since its creation in 2004. We’re proud to celebrate a decade of achievement best illustrated by our relationships with the thousands of educators who have launched and advanced careers with our help, the school districts and the communities throughout California supported by our innovative programs, and the state and national education organizations with which we are actively involved. Our many accomplishments are underpinned by a stellar faculty and generous friends and supporters who have given their time, talent, and finances to further our mission to advance the readiness of all learners to actively participate in an ever-changing, diverse and digital world. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we honor the many people who have contributed to our success and who have set the course for our future accomplishments.

FIRST BIG STEPS

The College of Education’s history begins in 1959 when Orange County State College (later to be renamed California State University, Fullerton) opened with education classes as its only offerings. In 1965, a School of Education was formed within the College of Human Development and Community Service (now the College of Health and Human Development) to better address the needs and preparation of educators. Shortly thereafter, master’s education concentrations in Special Education, Reading, Elementary Education, and Secondary Education were established.

As the demand for teachers increased over the last decades of the 20th century, the School of Education innovated to meet those evolving needs. Advancements in the scope of degree programs and online education offerings coupled with an increasing public interest in the quality of teacher education and a demand for accountability created the need for a new organizational structure and senior leadership devoted to educator preparation. “It became clear that meeting these demands could progress more effectively within a separate College of Education, which would address these educational programming needs,” explains Roberta Rikli, dean emerita of the College of Health and Human Development.

Following extensive conversations and input from faculty and staff, Rikli submitted a formal proposal recommending the establishment of a new College of Education on January 31, 2004. The proposal was fully endorsed and signed by all 15 members of the Chair’s Council and was unopposed by any faculty member or staff member within the college.

After several campus-wide open hearings and a rare campus-wide referendum vote, the new College of Education was officially approved in a June 3, 2004 memo from President Milton Gordon. In the memo, he complimented both the proposal process and the new College of Education, describing it “as an important step in the future development of CSUF.”

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IS BORN

Ashley Bishop, professor of Reading and faculty member with the department since 1976, was appointed as the acting dean of the College of Education. “Our amazing faculty deserve much credit. They were 100 percent behind Education becoming Fullerton’s eighth college,” says Bishop. “Their full commitment made the process a positive one for all involved.”

Carmen Dunlap, professor of Elementary and Bilingual Education, became the College of Education’s first associate dean. She remembers when the academic senate voted to recommend the formation of the college in 2004. “It felt like we were given an enormous blank canvas that we had wanted for a very long time,” she explained. “Now we had to decide what we were going to create.”
Those most closely associated with the transition to a College of Education credit a spirit of camaraderie that pervaded the change for their success.

“We shared a conviction that this was the right decision for the University and for the programs involved, a conviction that, as time has proven, was well-justified,” says Rikli.

The college leadership team got to work creating the vision and action plan necessary for shaping a college that would strongly contribute to the University community. “We had to ask, and answer, what we wanted for ourselves, our faculty, our students, and the wider educational community we so closely work with,” Dunlap says.

To support faculty research, provide student scholarships, and enrich education resources, Bishop worked to develop strong business and community backing. He and the leadership team established an advisory board consisting primarily of Orange County superintendents as well as an advancement board made up of outstanding community and business leaders, educational authorities, and a well-known children’s author. In addition, he also established the Honor an Educator scholarship fund.

“With the support and guidance of both boards, we enriched our community visibility, developed even stronger partnerships with school districts, and increased scholarships ten-fold,” he explains. “Our scholarship efforts, our credential ceremony, the research we produced, and the very high-quality teachers, educational specialists, and administrators coming out of the college created an amazing amount of enthusiasm.”

A SEASON OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

By 2006, the College of Education was serving close to 2,300 students, with 200 faculty members teaching nearly 500 courses. The University conducted a national search for a dean with extensive administrative and faculty experience that could be applied to continue the momentum of the new college. Claire Cavallaro was appointed as the first dean. Within two years, the college launched a Doctor of Education program, the first independent doctoral program at Cal State Fullerton and one of the first in the CSU system. The Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership built on the college’s two decades of successful experience working with surrounding school districts and community colleges to address the major challenges faced by the rapidly changing demographics of Orange County. The program, which offers tracks in PK–12 and community college leadership, directly responds to the needs of the county population, which has become majority minority.

At the same time, the college developed an assessment system that has become a model for the University and has helped the college receive an overwhelmingly positive review and reaccreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). The college is the only institution in Orange County that has NCATE accreditation.

Shortly after these programs were in place, the college developed its first strategic plan, led by department chairs and a diverse group of faculty and community members. Implemented in 2011, these initiatives have been very successful.

“Our faculty have been instrumental in the success of our strategy, fortifying partnerships with schools and districts; strengthening clinical preparation including college-wide implementation of co-teaching; developing a proposal to recognize engaged scholarship in faculty reappointment, tenure, and promotion; integrating technology throughout our programs; and preparing educators who advocate for just, equitable, and inclusive education,” says Cavallaro.

The college also pioneered online programs at Cal State Fullerton, starting with the Masters of Science degree in Instructional Design and Technology. “This program paved the way for our college and others throughout the University to convert traditional master’s programs to fully online programs with fast-track approval through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges,” explains Cavallaro.

“Since then, we have developed and launched five fully online programs that are now nationally ranked in the top 10 percent.”

Because data indicate that arts and technology are vital tools to help students learn, the college launched the Center for Creativity and Critical Thinking in 2009. The Center is dedicated to teaching teachers how to infuse the arts, science, and technology as central components in school curriculum. The SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union pledged $50,000 every year for five years to establish the Center. Then, in 2014, the credit union pledged an additional $500,000 to further the Center’s work.

Research is a big part of the College of Education. To strengthen that culture, the Center for Research on Educational Access and Leadership (C-REAL) was established in 2008 at the same time that the Doctor in Education degree program was launched. Through research, evaluation and program development, C-REAL is helping to reduce the achievement gap between student groups and support efforts that will better ensure student equity, access, and success. During the past 10 years, research initiatives at the college have received significant grants. In 2014 alone, close to $3 million was received to fund diverse projects, from special education credential preparation of teacher candidates from underrepresented backgrounds to dual-language programs to increase math and science achievement among Latino junior high students, and education programs for medical professionals who provide cancer treatment to children with autism.

International partnerships have also been a focus over the last ten years, with a growth in programs that prepare teachers and educational leaders in a cross-cultural world to serve the regional diversity of Southern California. The Center for International Partnerships in Education was established to provide opportunities for international research and study abroad experiences, and recruit international students to campus. Partnerships with universities and academic institutes now span the globe and include Poland, South Africa, Russia, Vietnam, Germany, and Lithuania.
The Department of Special Education...is looking forward to enhancing the online master’s degree program with concentrations in assistive technology, autism, and early childhood special education.”

Melinda R. Pierson, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Special Education

The Department of Elementary and Bilingual Education...expects to expand program offerings that integrate technology, the arts, and just, equitable and inclusive education while developing and expanding school and community partnerships.”

Jennifer Ponder, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Elementary and Bilingual Education

The Department of Secondary Education... plans to establish learning communities and use of high impact practices to emphasize the context of student and teacher diversity of California classrooms.”

Grace Cho, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Secondary Education

INTO THE FUTURE

“We have made significant strides in the scholarship of engagement, partnerships with schools and communities, diversity and educational equity, and integration of technology,” says Cavallaro. “That is part of what merits our reputation of excellence.”

It is this reputation for excellence that continues to draw students to the college. And an expected increase in teacher retirements in the next few years provides an opportunity for the college to expand its recruitment and retention initiatives even further.

“We expect that as jobs become available, more undergraduate students will be interested in teacher preparation programs and we are working to increase our capacity to advise and support these candidates,” says Cavallaro. “We intend to increase our scope even further by partnering with more schools, enhancing our students’ field experiences, and conducting enriching exchanges with students and faculty from around the world.”

The College also has new partnerships with universities across the country who are similarly engaged in innovation and continued improvement in teacher education.

“This is an exciting time for our college as we continue to guide more people toward their dreams of becoming educators,” states Cavallaro. “Based on our current progress, I see the college becoming a national model for engaged scholarship and authentic partnerships that comprehensively promote student learning and success.”
M.S. Education Concentrations in Special Education, Reading, Elementary Education, and Secondary Education are established.

“*The Department of Reading*... expects to expand our partnerships across campus to enhance student learning in the STEM fields. In addition, we are growing a relationship with the Center for Autism to support children with autism who are participating in our reading center.”

_Erica Bowers, Ed.D._
Chair, Department of Reading Education
The Masters of Science in Instructional Design and Technology (MSIDT) is launched as CSUF’s first online master’s degree program.

The College of Education Advancement Board (now the College of Education Leadership Council) is established.

First Honor a Teacher (now Honor an Educator) event is held.

College of Education Founders Wall is dedicated.

College of Education launches the first independent doctorate program at CSUF.

Center for Careers in Teaching is established.

Dr. Claire Cavallaro is appointed as first Dean of the College of Education.

1982
First Edwin Carr Fellows are named.

The Division of Education is re-established as a School under the College of Human Development and Community Service (now the College of Health and Human Development).

Dr. Ashley Bishop is appointed Acting Dean for the College of Education.

Joint Doctoral Program is established between the CSUF College of Education and UC Irvine.

2000
The Donoghue Children’s Literature Center is established in the Pollak Library.

The CSUF College of Education is established and becomes the eighth college at California State University, Fullerton.

MSIDT Alumni Chapter is founded.

Community Learning and Literacy Center is founded.

2002
Edwin Carr Fellow Advisory Board is formed.

The College of Education Advisory Board is formed.

2004

2005

2006

2007
Catalyst Center is established in collaboration with the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

The Reading Center is named for Dr. Hazel Miller Croy.

Emma E. Holmes Dean’s Suite is named and Emma E. Holmes Faculty Fellowship is established in honor of Dr. Holmes’ $775,000 gift to the College of Education.

Center for Maximizing Teacher Impact is founded.

The CSUF Center for Autism is founded in collaboration with the College of Health and Human Development.

The Center for Careers in Teaching joins the College of Education.

Graduates from the College of Education’s independent Ed.D. program.

Los Maestros Alumni Chapter is established.

The SchoolsFirst Center for Creativity and Critical Thinking in Schools is founded.

The Center for Research on Educational Access and Leadership (C-REAL) is founded.

College of Education Alumni Chapter is established.

The SchoolsFirst Center for Creativity and Critical Thinking in Schools is renamed the SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union Center for Creativity and Critical Thinking in honor of their $500,000 gift pledge.

The College of Education celebrates its 10th Anniversary!
TITAN COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP FUND

A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION THROUGH THE NEXT DECADE

Our faculty works closely with school and community partners to meet the challenges of education in the 21st century – challenges such as adapting to the new Common Core State Standards, incorporating rapidly evolving technology, meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse population, and increasing student interest and success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

To meet these challenges, we are creating authentic, reciprocal partnerships focused on the mutual goal of student learning and success. You can join us in supporting these partnerships by investing in the Titan Community and School Partnership Fund. Your contribution will improve the quality of education in our region’s schools and colleges, now and in the future, through:

- Action research that engages students, teachers, and faculty in knowledge development, innovation, and continuous improvement in local PK–12 schools and community colleges.
- The dissemination of learning outcomes and research findings through scholarly presentations, community forums, and showcases created in collaboration with CSUF faculty, students, and local school sites.
- Professional development sites that are staffed and structured to simultaneously support student achievement, clinical preparation of teachers and specialists, and the full continuum of teacher learning.
- Partnerships that provide specialized services such as reading assessments for students in high need schools, social skills training for students with autism spectrum disorders, and the integration of creativity, critical thinking, and the arts in the curriculum.
- Increased opportunities to engage our alumni and partners with future educators to promote lifelong learning and community building.

KEEP OUR FUTURE BRIGHT!

Please go online to ed.fullerton.edu/10thAnniversary to learn more about how you can contribute to the Titan Community and School Partnership Fund.