

New UCEA Center for the International Study of School Leadership

The **UCEA Center for the International Study of School Leadership** replaces the Center for the Study of School Site Leadership which had been in existence since 1999 and had been represented by Steve Jacobson in the University at Buffalo/State University of New York, and Ken Leithwood of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). The new center expands the knowledge of school site leadership by adding the knowledge of international scholars.

In recent years, Lauri Johnson from Boston College, and Rose Ylimaki from University of Arizona had been leading the center and had supported the involvement of international colleagues in the dissemination of knowledge about successful principals around the world. Following their efforts, the Center has received approval from the UCEA executive committee, to officially expand its' efforts.

The new center will be organized by 4 co-directors in 4 national and international universities.

National directors: Dr. Jeff Bennett, University of Arizona
 Dr. Elizabeth Murakami, University of Texas of the Permian Basin
International directors: Dr. Monika Törnsen, Umeå University, Sweden
 Dr. Katina Pollock, Western Ontario University, Canada

The director will also establish an advisory board. The Advisory board will be comprised of invited national and international scholars who are leaders/conveners of international organizations. At a national level, scholars invested in cross-cultural studies in educational leadership who are active at national organizations, such as UCEA, AERA, NCPEA, and other organizations will be included. At an international level, representatives from organizations such as the British Educational Leadership Management and Administration Society (BELMAS), European Conference on Educational Research (ECER), Australian International Education (AIEC), and other continents will be considered. Affiliate members will be invited locally, by their affiliation to UCEA and their focus on national/international issues in school leadership. International members will be invited by their affiliation to UCEA and focus on cross-cultural leadership research.

The mission of the center is to generate and mobilize evidence-based research knowledge of school leadership through a pro-active approach, combining national and international efforts to improve schooling for the success of children. The quality preparation and professional development of school leaders, combined with collaborative partnerships with researchers, policy-makers, and governmental agencies are aimed to advance an understanding of common leadership challenges and successes in multiple countries. The center plans to (a) in year 1, develop an actionable message development about the center; (b) in year 2, build a research base repository (policy and research briefs), and establish a knowledge mobilization plan; and (c) in year 3, implement knowledge mobilization plans and dissemination of research.

In summary, the Center for the International Study of School Leadership aspires to gather national and international communities of scholars, practitioners, policy makers and government

agencies dedicated to the improvement of schools through school leadership. The Center will work closely with Steve Jacobson, the associate director of international affairs, and will be dedicated to foster a cross-national effort in the improvement of leaders and their leadership, who in turn will be well informed about research at a global level affecting students, teachers, and families. Please join us at the Center to mobilize the knowledge of school leadership to a global level.