



January 22, 2014

Dear Colleague:

The Neag School of Education, Department of Educational Leadership is now accepting applications for the **Executive Leadership Program** 2014-15 cohort. As you know, the Executive Leadership Program prepares educational leaders for district leadership positions with a primary emphasis on the preparation for the position of superintendent of schools. The program provides prospective superintendents the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century superintendency and results in endorsement for the Connecticut Superintendent Certification (093). The 13-month program is specifically designed with consideration of the professional and personal scheduling challenges of contemporary school leaders. The Executive Leadership Program has a well established partnership with the **Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)**. In addition to overall program support, CAPSS coordinates and supports the internship portion of the program.

This will be the fourteenth Executive Leadership Program cohort and at this time there are more than 80 ELP graduates serving as district leaders with approximately 40 now serving as Connecticut superintendents. We believe (and feedback from former participants confirms) that the success of program graduates is due in large measure to three program strengths. First, the program is designed around a cohort model which increases participant interaction and fosters a professional learning community around best practices in school district leadership; second, the ELP/CAPSS Internship with both a mentor superintendent and the superintendent from the participant's home district provides a direct connection between theory and practice in real district leadership settings; and finally, program instructors include scholar-practitioners who ground course content in experiences and case studies that integrate district leadership theory and best practices.

Most of the EL Program participants have been identified and encouraged to consider applying to the Executive Leadership Program by superintendents and/or graduates of the program. I invite and encourage you at this time to share our brochure with educational leaders who you believe have the promise and potential to serve as district leaders and superintendents. **There will be an Executive Leadership Program Information Session for interested candidates held at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, March 5 at the CAPSS office in West Hartford, CT. All interested candidates are welcome and encouraged to attend this session. Additional information and application information can be found at the following website: <http://edlr.education.uconn.edu/programs/executive-leadership/execlead/overview>**

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Our commitment to develop the next generation of school district leaders is an important part of our own educational leadership commitment. I thank you in advance for your assistance and encourage you to contact me if you have questions or suggestions concerning the Executive Leadership Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Villanova". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert M. Villanova

Director, Executive Leadership Program

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RMV:ks