



January 29, 2016

Dear Colleague:

The Neag School of Education's Department of Educational Leadership is now accepting applications for the **Executive Leadership Program (ELP) 2016-17** cohort. As you know, the Executive Leadership Program prepares educational leaders for district leadership positions, with a primary emphasis on the position of superintendent of schools.

The program provides prospective superintendents with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the district leadership challenges of the 21st-century. The program leads to endorsement for the Connecticut Superintendent Certification (093). The 13-month program is specifically designed with consideration for the professional and personal scheduling challenges of contemporary school leaders. ELP has a well-established partnership with the **Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)**. In addition to offering overall program support, CAPSS coordinates and supports the internship portion of the program.

As we look to recruit our 16<sup>th</sup> ELP cohort, more than 100 ELP graduates are now in key district leadership roles, including approximately 70 serving as Connecticut superintendents. Three key strengths contribute to the program's continued success:

- Our **cohort model** increases participant interaction and fosters a professional learning community around best practices in school district leadership;
- 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;
- Program instructors include **scholar-practitioners** who ground course content in experiences and case studies that integrate district leadership theory and best practices.

**Most ELP participants are identified and encouraged to consider applying to the program by individuals like you – superintendents and/or ELP graduates.** I invite you at this time to share our enclosed brochure with educational leaders who you believe have the promise and potential to serve as district leaders and superintendents.

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**All interested candidates are encouraged to attend our next Executive Leadership Program Information Session at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at the Connecticut Center for School Change located at 151 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT. Additional program and application information is available online at [executive.education.uconn.edu](http://executive.education.uconn.edu).**

Our commitment to developing the next generation of school district leaders is an important part of the Neag School of Education's educational leadership mission. 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 stroke at the end.

Robert M. Villanova  
Director, Executive Leadership Program  
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“The Neag School of Education’s Executive Leadership Program is highly regarded by school system leaders in Connecticut. This regard is based on the fact that a very high percentage of graduates of the program go on in their own right to be highly effective school system leaders who are able to meet the myriad responsibilities of school system leadership in a way that blends all of those actions into programs that effectively increase achievement for all students. Anyone who aspires to school system leadership should give serious consideration to enrolling in the program.”

–Joseph Cirsuolo, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents



“The Neag School of Education’s Executive Leadership Program prepared me for the complex work of effecting system-wide improvement from the seat of a central office position in a school district. Every district leader needs a framework to align key actions that focuses on our ultimate goal of improving learning for all students. The program, through its integration of academics and practical experiences, provided me with just that — a framework that I use today that helps me to identify the key elements and their coherent relationship that will bring about district-wide improvement.”

–Anna Cutaia-Leonard, '07 ELP, '13 Ed.D., Superintendent, Regional School District 14



“The best kind of learning — purposeful, supportive, and meaningful. I learned from the curriculum, I learned from the facilitators, and I learned from my colleagues, in a powerful leadership translation of the instructional core. These leadership jobs are challenging — no preparation program can change that, but ELP does a wonderful job of preparing for the challenges.”

–Garth Harries '12 ELP, Superintendent, New Haven Public Schools



## ELP Program of Study

The Executive Leadership Program requires 15 credits of coursework, including a two-semester internship/practicum offered in partnership with the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents. For additional details, please visit [executive.education.uconn.edu](http://executive.education.uconn.edu).

**EDLR 6301:** School District Executive Leadership – 3 Credits

**EDLR 6302:** School District Policy, Politics, and Governance – 3 Credits

**EDLR 6303:** Data-Driven Decision Making for School Improvement and Policy Development – 3 Credits

**EDLR 6304:** Financial and Human Resources Management in Education – 3 Credits

**EDLR 6092:** Internship/Practicum – 3 Credits (full-year internship with an experienced superintendent, provided in partnership with CAPSS)

**Questions? Connect with us today.**

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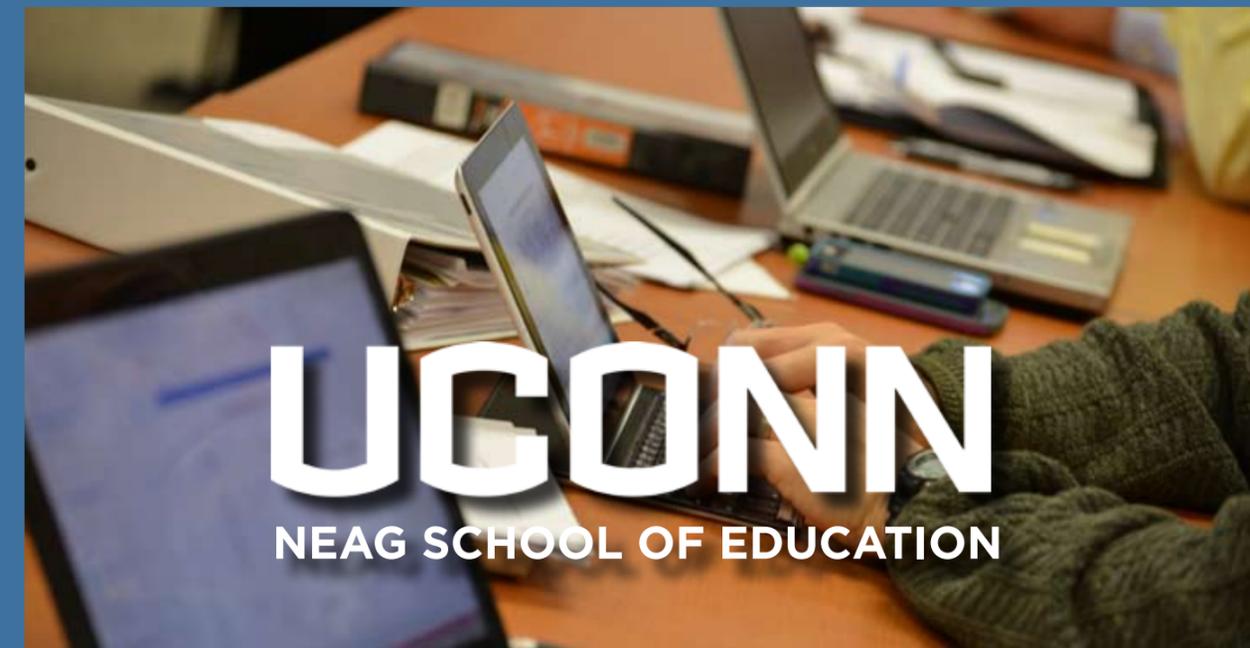
For more information, including program timeline, a list of faculty, and more, visit [executive.education.uconn.edu](http://executive.education.uconn.edu).

**UCONN**  
 NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



# Preparing Superintendents and School District Leaders for the 21st Century

**University of Connecticut  
 Executive Leadership Program (ELP)**



**UCONN**  
 NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



# Bring your educational leadership skills to the next level. Become a school district leader in **one** year.



**W**hether you aspire to serve as a school superintendent or in another capacity as a school district leader, the Executive Leadership Program (ELP) at UConn's Neag School of Education offers a comprehensive, one-year program.

This program is specifically designed to prepare district leaders who have served successfully as the lead administrator for four or more years in a position that requires Connecticut Intermediate Administrator Certification (O92), such as a principal or central office leader.

ELP graduates earn endorsement for Connecticut Superintendent Certification (O93) while gaining the knowledge necessary for successfully meeting the challenges of district leadership in the 21st century.

Each ELP participant is placed with an experienced Connecticut superintendent for a two-semester practicum offered in partnership with Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS).



## Why Choose ELP?

■ **Comprehensive, practical coursework.** In only 13 months, complete five three-credit courses — including an internship with an experienced Connecticut superintendent — as part of a cohort. Each course is delivered through a balance of academic and practitioner perspectives, and emphasizes applied theory as well as case studies around authentic district leadership problems of practice.

■ **Superintendent internship.** A key component of the program is a two-semester internship or clinical practicum in district leadership. Participants are paired with an experienced superintendent mentor. The internship is offered in partnership with CAPSS.

■ **Expert mentors.** University and clinical faculty serve as ELP instructors, while experienced superintendents and state policymakers play an active role in the Best Practices in District Leadership seminar series.

■ **Attention to special education.** Coursework in special education — a requirement for the Connecticut Superintendent Certificate (O93) — is incorporated throughout the program.

■ **O93 Certification.** Participants can expect to attain Connecticut Superintendent Certification (O93) upon satisfactory completion of this program.

■ **Central location.** All ELP sessions are held in the greater Hartford, Conn., area, most often on-site in a partner school district.

## What Does It Take to Qualify for ELP?

### TO QUALIFY AS AN ELP APPLICANT, YOU MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- A strong academic record, including a master's degree and a minimum of 15 appropriately related graduate credits beyond master's level
- An established record of successful educational leadership experience and a demonstrated ability to sustain positive professional relationships
- Demonstrated capacity to lead a school or district to improve student learning opportunities over time
- Professional references that address your potential for effective district-level leadership
- Service in a leadership position that requires the Connecticut Intermediate Administrator Certification (O92), or its equivalent, for at least four school years

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must submit the following by April 15:

- Executive Leadership Program application, available at [executive.education.uconn.edu](http://executive.education.uconn.edu)
- College and graduate school transcripts
- Personal statement regarding your professional aspirations related to school district leadership and prior experiences in educational leadership
- Two written recommendations that attest to your educational leadership experiences and that describe how your education and/or professional experiences have successfully prepared you to meet the requirements of the Executive Leadership Program and a district leadership position
- A 30- to 45-minute admissions interview for select qualified candidates

## Program Goals

# 1

**Provide prospective superintendents with the background, knowledge, and practical skills needed to address problems of practice associated with school district leadership in the 21st century.**

# 2

**Integrate coursework with structured clinical experiences that prepares participants to demonstrate mastery of the Connecticut School Leadership Standards.**

# 3

**Offer a UConn institutional endorsement for the Connecticut Superintendent Certification (O93).**



## APPLICATION DEADLINES

**Application period:** March 1 – April 15  
**Interviews scheduled:** April 15 – May 15

**Acceptance letters sent on or before May 31.**

Please visit [executive.education.uconn.edu](http://executive.education.uconn.edu) for further details regarding admissions criteria and application procedures.