



President's Welcome Letter

Sheila Moore, University of Central Florida

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the FAPEL Board of Directors, thank you for your support during this academic year. I am excited to share the 2024 FAPEL Newsletter. Thank you to Dr. Julie Gray (University of West Florida) for accepting the call to lead and to the committee members, Dr. Aneta Walker (UWF) and Dr. Lavetta Henderson (FAMU), for their commitment to FAPEL's work.

Twenty-five years ago, educational leadership professors representing Florida International University, the University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Florida State University, and the University of Florida met to establish an association that would enable Florida Educational Leadership professors a voice in the development process of legislation relating to educational leadership programs and certification. Today, Florida faces many of the same social and political problems as when FAPEL was founded. Given the urgent and challenging issues that are facing educators and professors of educational leadership locally and nationally, FAPEL issued a: "A Call to Action: Addressing the Challenges of Leadership, Policy and Practice" in response. The Fall 23 Virtual Meeting featured building and district leaders who shared their experiences supporting and protecting the educational and mental well-being of their teachers and students while implementing recent legislative policies. Additionally, the Spring 24 In-person meeting featured

groundbreaking and transformational work of colleagues who have conducted research in support of the educational and mental well-being of educational leadership faculty, K-12 school leaders, and students.

As educational leadership professors, it is important that we continue to work collaboratively in the sharing of resources and best practices in teaching and learning, research, service, and caring for self and others; review of and reflection on FAPEL processes, practices, vision, and mission; and opportunities for informal socialization, networking, and connecting. Ultimately, this will lead us to ensure that our collective leadership and wisdom will facilitate the improvement of the quality of learning and leadership in all Florida schools. Accordingly, do know that the FAPEL board is working on your behalf to make a positive difference to the future of education in Florida, through supporting educational leaders.

I challenge you to continue to lead in the spirit of FAPEL's mission based on a commitment to justice, fairness, and democratic principles. I wish you a wonderful and productive rest of the semester.

Best,
Sheila Moore
FAPEL
President



FAPEL Fall Meeting 2023

Julie Gray, PhD, UWF

The FAPEL fall meeting was held virtually on Oct. 9, 2023. The panel discussion *From Policy to Practice: School Leaders' Experiences with Implementation and Implications* was moderated by Dr. Larry Walker from UCF. The panelists included Seth Daub, Principal of Orange County Public Schools, Jennifer Halter, Principal of Clay County Schools, Rocky Hanna, Superintendent of Leon County Schools, and Dr. Jennifer Hawthorne, Deputy Superintendent of Walton County Schools.

The panelists offered some excellent advice about bridging theory to practice, ranging from the importance of mentoring novice leaders, modeling best practices, considering the individual needs of new leaders, and communicating specific expectations. Superintendent Hanna reminded us that strong school leaders build relationships and communicate regularly with stakeholders.

Principal Halter emphasized the need to understand data, the curriculum, and to support teachers with compassion and empathy when needed. There was also advice about marketing your school and district within the community and having an 'elevator speech' by Principal Daub.

Dr. Hawthorne focused on staying positive, wanting to do what is best for the kids, and coaching others in problem solving skills. In closing, the participants emphasized how we must guard the profession, tell the good about our schools, and control the messages being sent about our districts.

Reviewing Opportunities

- ICPEL is seeking reviewers for our four peer-reviewed journals. Quality reviews are essential to our publications and a great way for you to stay abreast of current research and contribute to our professional knowledge base. If you are willing to serve, please contact ICPEL Publications Director, Brad Bizzell, at bbizzell@radford.edu.

Publishing Opportunities

- ICPEL Journals - <https://www.icpel.org/journals.html>
- AERA Journals - <https://www.aera.net/Publications/Journals>
- Journal of Research on Leadership Education - <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journal/journal-research-leadership-education>

FAPEL is the Florida Association of Professors of Educational Leadership. The purpose of the organization is to promote the improvement of the education of educational leaders through teaching, research, and service within a program of activities including, but not limited to the following:

- to foster educational improvement through the inclusion of educational leadership in the teaching and learning process;
- to provide leadership in the effective implementation and evaluation of statewide projects and programs;
- to promote the flow of information, ideas, and services among professors of educational leadership in Florida;
- to work cooperatively and collaboratively with similar state, regional, national, and global organizations;
- to sponsor professional conferences and workshops on behalf of the membership;
- to provide an organized forum for experimentation, research, and development;
- to provide leadership in the development, implementation, evaluation, and redesign of educational leadership consistent with valued research and history, and most recent needs, research, and development; and
- to provide expertise drawn from the membership to help shape, define, implement, evaluate, and positively influence educational leadership policy and for all interested or affected stakeholders.



Florida Association of
Professors of Educational Leadership

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Upcoming Conferences

ICPEL Conference

Leadership As Moral Imperative
San Antonio, TX. 7/30-7/31/2024

AERA Conference

*Dismantling Racial Injustice and
Constructing Educational*
Philadelphia, PA. 4/11-14/2024

Highlighting Key Legislative Developments in Florida's Education System

John E. Critelli Jr., PhD, Florida Atlantic University

Michele White, Florida Association of School Administrators

Dana Thompson-Dorsey, PhD, University of South Florida

The Florida Association of Professors of Educational Leadership (FAPEL) is committed to providing insightful analysis and fostering thoughtful discussions on key legislative developments in partnership with Florida Association of School Administrators (FASA). Currently, several proposed bills stand out for their potential impact on various aspects of education - from governance and operational flexibility to health safety and inclusion. Each piece of legislation carries substantial implications for educational leadership, policymaking, and the educational landscape in Florida.

SPB 7000 - Deregulation of Public Schools/Instructional, Administrative, and Support Personnel - A New Era for Public Schools? In a significant move, the proposed bill SPB 7000 aims to deregulate public schools, focusing on the roles of instructional, administrative, and support personnel. This bill is a cornerstone for the current legislative session, seeking to provide schools with greater autonomy and flexibility, especially in managing personnel and potentially influencing curriculum decisions. It marks a notable shift in educational governance, with likely effects on hiring practices, staff responsibilities, and overall school operations.

SB 52/HB 65 - Anaphylaxis in Public Schools - Prioritizing Health in Education. Addressing a critical health concern, SB 52/HB 65 mandates the Department of Education to publish each district school board's anaphylaxis policy. This bill underscores the importance of preparing school personnel to handle allergic reactions, ensuring that a certain percentage receive specialized training. This is a vital step in enhancing health and safety protocols in schools, preparing them for emergencies involving life-threatening allergic reactions.

SB 62 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes. This bill focuses on the tuition residency status for individuals who have been incarcerated or recently released. It proposes the use of expired documentation for residency purposes and considers the individual's pre-incarceration legal residence as evidence of current legal residency. This legislation is significant for its role in promoting higher education access for formerly incarcerated individuals, thereby supporting their reintegration into society.

SB 246/HB 109 - The Charter School Debate Intensifies. Revising the landscape of public education, SB 246/HB 109 alters the requirements for conversion charter school applications. It opens the door for municipalities to apply for the conversion of public schools into charter schools, with the Charter School Review Commission playing a pivotal role in soliciting and reviewing such applications. This bill carries the potential to increase the number of charter schools and transform public education governance and school choice options.

As the landscape of Florida's education system stands on the brink of these significant transformations, the role of educational leaders becomes more vital than ever. The proposed legislative changes - SPB 7000, SB 52/HB 65, SB 62, and SB 246/HB 109 - not only signal shifts in policy and practice but also invite us to ponder deeper questions about the future of education in our state. How will these changes shape the experiences of our students, educators, and communities? What new challenges and opportunities might emerge in this evolving scenario?

Please, email Dr. Sheila Moore at sheila.moore@ucf.edu if you are interested in serving as FAPEL Website Editor.



University Council for Educational Administration 2023 Conference

The UCEA annual conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from November 16-18, 2023. The theme was *A Call to Action: Imagining a Hard Reset in Educational Leadership*, and Zorka Karanxha (USF) and Daniel Moraguez (FSU) were on the planning committee. Several of our esteemed FAPEL members presented, as well.

- *Perceptions of Teacher Leadership in Egyptian Schools: A Mixed-Methods Exploration.* Maysaa Barakat, Florida Atlantic University; Waheed Hammad, Sultan Qaboos University
- *Teacher Leadership in Reform Development and Implementation.* Marisa Cannata, Vanderbilt University; Brittany Closson-Pitts, Florida State University; Stacey Rutledge, FSU
- *Principal Preparation Partnerships and Leadership Tracking Systems—Perceptions and Implications for Improving and Sustaining Partnership Outcomes.* John E. Critelli, Jr., Florida Atlantic University; Daniel Reyes-Guerra, FAU; Cynthia B. Bauman, FAU
- *A Sensemaking Approach to Building Social Justice Awareness.* Andrea M. O'Sullivan, University of South Florida; Brianne L. Reck, USF; William Black, USF; Charles Vanover, USF
- *Virtual Simulations: A Call to Engage Educational Leadership Candidates in Ethics.* Aneta Walker, University of West Florida; Julie Gray, UWF; Karen Evans, UWF



The FAPEL Spring Conference was hosted by the University of Central Florida from January 28-29th, 2024, by current President Sheila Moore and the executive board members.

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Dr. Moraguez is excited to serve as Chair of the Policy Committee. He is currently an Assistant Professor at Florida State University where he teaches a policy to practice course for doctoral students in addition to principal preparation courses for aspiring leaders. His current research is focused on instructional pedagogies for equity, social justice, and anti-racist competence development, particularly via digital and mixed-reality simulations. As new Chair, Dr. Moraguez is eager to continue to build on the historical work of previous Policy Chairs and other FAPEL contributors to meet the organization's stated mission and values. His approach to committee stewardship will be to collaborate with members to provide state policy updates, communicate proactive approaches to new and ongoing challenges, and to render and disseminate policy-focused research opportunities.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please, email Dr. Moraguez at dmoraguez@fsu.edu.



The FAPEL Executive Board and members from around the state of Florida attended the Spring 2024 Conference at UCF in January.

FAPEL membership is open to any faculty member in any Florida college or university with assigned responsibilities in teaching, research, and service for educational leadership upon payment of annual dues. Graduate students in educational leadership and policy may also become members. Please, review the web-links that are available on our FAPEL website: <http://flapel.org/links/>. FAPEL Institutional Members include Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida International University, Florida State University, National Louis University, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, USF – Sarasota/Manatee, and the University of West Florida.



Dr. Aneta Walker (UWF), Dr. Daniel Reyes-Guerra (FAU); Dr. Julie Gray (UWF); Myrlaine Salter (BCPS); Dr. John Critelli (FAU); and Cynthia Bauman (FAU) at UCEA in November, 2023.