

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ELPA NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



Donna Whitehouse, Community College Leadership Certificate student and Dr. Jill Channing recently published an article in Leadership Abstracts focused on "shadow colleges."

Their article, "Innovating the Community College Through Shadow College Lessons," looks at myths surrounding noncredit programs and suggests best practices within community colleges.

Read more [here](#)



Congratulations to our graduates!

All the best on your next chapter! Please keep in touch and share your future endeavors and accomplishments.

Doctoral Students

Gregory Cross

Timothy Duncan

John Faulconer

Jeannie Guess

Patricia Harlan

Heather Levesque

Victoria Mellons

Sinthea Reynolds

Megan Roberts

Rachel Shepherd

Lanell Smith

Tierra Stark

Willie Thomas

Connie Trivette

Andrea Whitaker

Joseph Wingate

Maigan Wipfli

Master's Students - Higher Ed Leadership

Meaghan Heimbach

Jada Hensley



RESILIENT SCHOOLS PROJECT

An innovative partnership between East Tennessee State University and the Unicoi County School System will provide a framework to support students who have experienced trauma and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The ELPA department and Strong BRAIN Institute (SBI) are teaming with Unicoi County Schools on this project to offer training, coaching, and assessment tools.

The goal of the five-year initiative called the Resilient Schools Project, is to guide administrators in identifying what tools, resources, and practices the Unicoi County School System can provide to help these students overcome barriers to being successful in school, according to ELPA faculty members Drs. Ginger Christian and Virginia Foley.

Read more [here](#)

“THE RESILIENT SCHOOL PROJECT SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO BUILD STRONG BRAINS WHILE WE CAPTURE STUDENTS’ HEARTS FOR A BRIGHT AND PRODUCTIVE FUTURE. THERE IS NO LIMIT FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.”

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Pam Scott



Dr. Scott has taught for 40+ years; 15 of those at ETSU. Read on for some Q&A!

Q: Most important lesson:

A: The most important lesson I have learned is to keep learning by being open to new ideas and new perspectives of individuals who have experience in the field and those who are novices. There is always something new to learn. The 'job' is about people and how you care for their well-being.

Q: What is the proudest moment over the course of your career?

A: When former students let me know I have influenced them in a positive way.

Q: What publications are you most proud of?

A: The publication(s) of dissertations I have chaired 😊 The students have done the work, but I've been happy to be a part of it.

Q: What resources would you recommend for anyone interested in your field?

A: Read works by Covey, Senge, Heifetz, Greenfield, and others. Just read, read, read!

Q: What advice would you give your peers or students currently working within or looking to get in this field?

A: Take care of yourself – physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Expand your knowledge by reading, traveling, interacting with others in the field and outside the field.

Q: What is your legacy?

A: I don't know 😊 Hopefully, it is that I was a teacher who genuinely cared about students and showed that in my interactions with them.

ELPA Awardees

Clemmer College Awards Ceremony



Outstanding Dissertation

Dr. Heather Levesque (left)

Outstanding Teaching Award

Dr. Susan Epps (left)

Outstanding Graduate Assistant

Meaghan Heimbach (above)

Outstanding Student Worker

Cameron Townsend and Joshua Hoover

Outstanding Tuition Scholar

Rachel Shepherd and Tierra Stark

Justin Downs (for EDFN/SPED)

Outstanding Graduate Student

Alicia Abney

Outstanding Graduate Teacher Candidate

Carmine Cuda (ELPA GA) (above)

PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

Dobyns-Bennett High School Principal and ELPA alum Dr. Chris Hampton (right) has been named Tennessee Principal of the Year.

Hampton has served as Dobyns-Bennett's principal for 10 years. He previously served as a special education teacher, school counselor, and secondary curriculum coordinator.



Read more [here](#)



ELPA alum, Dr. Kyle Loudermilk (left), Principal of Jackson Elementary School, has been named Kingsport City Schools Principal of the Year.

Loudermilk is in his 13th year as an educator, with eight years at Kingsport City Schools.

Read more [here](#)

**We are proud that three ELPA alums were
named Principal of the Year for their
respective categories in Sullivan County, TN.**

DR. MICHELLE MURRAY
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

DR. JONATHAN FIELDS
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

DR. JOSH DAVIS
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



KUDOS!



Dr. Erin Messmer, Ed.D. Higher Education Leadership Concentration student and Department of Communication and Performance Lecturer, has been awarded the ETSU Graduate School's Outstanding Dissertation Award for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

In Dr. Messmer's dissertation, *First-Generation Women Students' Perceptions of Support While Enrolled in Higher Education Institutions: A Phenomenological Study*, she examined the essence of first-generation women's experiences while attending higher education. Her findings provide important implications for higher education professionals as they work to serve this demographic, as well as all first-generation college students. For example, colleges and universities should work more intentionally to bridge gaps between first-generation and non-first-generation students.



Dr. Debra Bentley (left), ELPA Adjunct Instructor, was honored with the inaugural Coalition for Kids Key to the City Award.

She was the first principal (18 years ago) to seek the C4K partnership and expand after school learning at Mountain View Elementary School. She spoke eloquently and with passion as she captured why students need support after school.

Kudos to Dr. Bentley!
We are proud of your work
for children in our
community.
Read more about
Coalition for Kids [here](#)

(Pictured right: Drs. Christian, Bentley, and Foley)



Congratulations to Dr. Jason Horne (right top) and Dr. Joshua Davis (left bottom), ELPA Alums and Adjunct Faculty members, who have been selected for the 2022 Prospective Superintendents' Academy.

The Academy is sponsored by the Tennessee School Boards Association and the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents.



**THANK YOU BOTH
FOR BEING
EXCELLENT
PROFESSORS,
SCHOLARS, AND
LEADERS**



ELPA alum Dr. Derriell Springfield (left) has taken the position of Strategic Partnership Manager with Western Governors University. Dr. Springfield has taught for WGU the past several years.

Congratulations to ELPA student Will Scheurer, IV (right) on his appointment as Program Director of Student Services and Trauma Informed Care for Bristol Virginia Public Schools! He begins his new role June 1st, 2022.

