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University Faculty Participate in Educational Leadership Mentoring Training: Program Aims to Train Mentors for K-12 School Principal Candidates

As part of a continuing effort to enhance the quality of Louisiana's educational leaders, the Louisiana Educational Leadership Network, in partnership with The Wallace Foundation, sponsored a two-day mentoring training seminar this week in Shreveport for faculty from colleges and universities across the state. The event, which runs through today on the campus of LSU — Shreveport, has been led by Sharon Southall, Associate Vice President for P-20 Initiatives at the University of Louisiana System, a Wallace Foundation partner.

The Louisiana Educational Leadership Network (LELN) is a joint initiative of the Governor's Office, the Board of Regents, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Education, the University of Louisiana System, and key district-university partnerships throughout the state. The network is one of many initiatives created by Louisiana's Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence. This commission has served as a catalyst for a broad range of education reform initiatives, including the redesign of all educational leadership preparation programs and the redesign of all teacher preparation programs in Louisiana.

“It has been important for state partners to join efforts to support university faculty and school personnel who are responsible for mentoring aspiring and new principals,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “New principals are going to be more successful if mentored by effective university faculty and school principals who understand how to build great leaders.”

The training includes modules that can be used by university trainers as they work with faculty teams who mentor aspiring educational leaders. The modules prepare university faculty assess their readiness to be a mentor, recognize characteristics of effective mentors, understand the roles of mentors, and build capacity for effective mentoring

“All students can learn to higher standards, and strong school leaders have a direct impact on student success. Today's principals are not only responsible for discipline,

transportation, and management of technology, but they also must lead and support faculty so that all students can achieve to those higher standards,” said University of Louisiana System President Sally Clausen. “If all of the buses run and each child has access to a computer, but students are not meeting higher standards, then we have failed. It takes continuous, ongoing, collaborative efforts among PreK-12 and higher education to ensure that our school leaders have effective mentors who prepare them to provide opportunities for all students to succeed. That is what we strive to do, and that is what is going on in Shreveport today.”

The universities participating in the training are the University of New Orleans, Xavier University, McNeese State University, Tulane University, Southern University and A&M College, Louisiana State University and A&M College, Louisiana State University at Alexandria, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Southeastern Louisiana University, Nicholls State University, Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, Northwestern State University, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

LELN is funded in part by the Louisiana Legislature and The Wallace Foundation, which seeks to support and share effective ideas and practices that expand learning and enrichment opportunities for all people.

For more information on teacher advancement through the teacher leader or educational leader programs, go to <http://www.leadlouisiana.net>.