John R. McCain, former Principal of Southwest Elementary School, was named Area Superintendent for Elementary Schools by the Durham Public Schools Board of Education at its Thursday, Jan. 23, meeting.

“Mr. McCain has built strong relationships within his school community and among his fellow principals,” said DPS Interim Superintendent Hugh Osteen. “He’s a collaborative leader with a solid instructional background who will serve our students and schools well.”

McCain led Southwest Elementary from 2011-2013 He began his career as an elementary teacher in Mebane, N.C., and later was recognized as Person County’s Wachovia Principal of the Year at Southern Middle School in Roxboro, N.C.

The Yadkin County Board of Education named Myra Cox as Assistant Superintendent for Yadkin County Schools at the February 3 Board meeting. Myra, a member of the first doctoral cohort at High Point University, was previously serving as the Chief Academic Officer and interim Assistant Superintendent since the retirement of Donna Boyles in October. In her official role, Myra directs curriculum in the fourteen schools in the district. Dr. Todd Martin serves as Superintendent of Yadkin County Schools.

Cox Named Yadkin County Assistant Superintendent

Upcoming Dates & Events:
- HPU Spring Break
  March 1-9
- NCASA’s Conference on Educational Leadership
  March 13-14
- ASCD 69th Annual Conference and Exhibit Show
  March 15-17

Freshman Success Coach Akir Khan was named one of the Triad Business Journal’s Top 40 Leaders Under 40!

Why selected: Khan is responsible for providing academic and transitional support to first-year students at HPU and is considered a change agent and community leader in higher education, interfaith dialogue and community organization.

He joined the doctoral program in Fall 2013.
Research and Travel Grant Recipients

High Point University's Office of Research Administration and Sponsored Programs, directed by Dr. Tim Linker, announced in January that four Ed.D. candidates were awarded grants to present at professional conferences this Spring. Congratulations to Tina Johnson, LaJuana Norfleet, Jonathan Thill, and Cate Gentry, who received funding for their projects and travel! Cate will be presenting at the NCASA Conference in March 2014. LaJuana will be presenting at The National Center for Youth Issues (NCYI) and Tennessee Department of Education’s 2013 Tennessee School Counselor and Administrator Leadership Institute in Chattanooga, TN. Jonathan, with innovative ideas about placemaking, will attend the League of Innovations in Community College 2014 Conference in San Francisco, CA, in March. Tina will be presenting at the National Association for Alternative Certification Conference in Orlando, FL, in March. We’re proud of our doctoral students who share their interest and ideas with other professionals. We are also appreciative of Dr. Linker’s Office of Research Administration, who administers grants that make such travel possible.

Notes from the Faculty

Dr. Martin gave an hour lecture during the winter parents weekend at HPU. His topic was the "Changing Landscape of Public Education." In his remarks, he discussed the advantages and disadvantages of charter schools and vouchers and described an umbrella organizational structure that could include all education funded with public dollars.

Thanks to Jonathan Thill's (Cohort 1) recommendation, Dr. Martin was invited to present to the Davidson County Community College Leadership Academy. The DCCC Leadership Academy is a six day training program designed to develop leadership skills for employees from a cross section of college departments. Dr. Martin shared his personal and organizational experience with Peter Senge's work on system's thinking and organizational learning. Jonathan Thill, Associate Dean of Continuing Education in the School of Business, Engineering and Technical Studies at DCCC, introduced Dr. Martin.

In February, Drs. Farrington and Mallory worked with Elkin City Schools' Board of Education, district leaders, and school administrators to explore the Board's role in leading schools on the pathway to significance. Superintendent Dr. Randy Bledsoe partners with High Point University's Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership and provides various opportunities for doctoral candidates to engage in district level projects.

Dr. Barbara Zwadyk is teaching in our Program this Spring. “My challenge to you is to leave the course even more determined to change the future of education, to do more than simply sustain innovation but rather to create a disruptive innovation.”
The Effective 21st Century School Counselor

LaJuana Norfleet recently presented at The National Center for Youth Issues (NCYI) and Tennessee Department of Education’s 2014 Tennessee School Counselor and Administrator Leadership Institute in Chattanooga, TN. Annually this institute brings together approximately 1,000 educators, counselors, principals, and administrators from throughout the state to learn how they can improve in their profession. Insights, inspiration, and effective plans of action from leading authorities in social, emotional, and physical development will be presented during this institute.

Her presentation focused on providing school counselors with best practices and essential programmatic implementations that will assist in equipping K-12 students with 21st century skills necessary for post-secondary plans. Highlighting the “3 E’s” (enrollment, enlistment, and employment), LaJuana shared accountability methods school counselors and administrators could use to monitor and support program components impacting student proficiency, and college and career readiness in their buildings.

A true advocate for school counselors, LaJuana has trained districts on the NC School Counselor Evaluation Tool, ASCA National Model, and Best Practices for College and Career Readiness of school counselors across the state and nation. LaJuana also serves as the Treasurer for the North Carolina School Counselor Association (NCSCA). For more information, contact Ed.D. candidate LaJuana Norfleet at norfll12@highpoint.edu.

LaJuana serves as the Lead Elementary School Counselor for the Alamance Burlington School System.

High Point University Graduate School Mover & Shaker

Tounya Wright is featured as a "mover and shaker" by the Norcross Graduate School this semester.

What made you decide that High Point University’s Norcross Graduate School was right for you? I specifically selected this Program because of the practitioner’s model; a model that focused on helping educational leaders solve problems of practice. I was looking for a Program that understood and valued the idea of using real world experiences along with project-based learning as part of the instructional framework.

Have you presented at any conferences or had papers published? I presented at the National Association of Counselors Association Conference on innovative ways to engage students in counseling sessions using art in 2005.

Is there a particular portion of your coursework that you have enjoyed more than another or that challenged you more than another? I actually have enjoyed all of my classes. They have all been very helpful to me. If I had to select the one that has been the most challenging, it is Political Systems: Effects on Governance and Operations. The focus of the course was the variety of political forces that influence a public school district’s decision-making process. I gained a broader understanding of the school district as a political system. Although I have struggled with this complex political system and its impact on student achievement for all students, I certainly learned a great deal.

For more information, contact Ed.D. candidate Tounya Wright at wright12@highpoint.edu.

Tounya was recently named Director of Hillside New Tech High School in Durham-Public Schools.
Faculty Notes Continued...

The Ed.D. faculty received High Point University support to apply for membership in the national Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED). After a review of applications, the CPED Board will invite selected colleges and universities to join the fifty-member organization in late Spring 2014. We will keep you posted on news concerning our application.

“Since 2007, CPED has engaged over 50 colleges and schools of education which have committed resources to work together to undertake a critical examination of the doctorate in education through dialog, experimentation, critical feedback and evaluation. The intent of the project is to collaboratively redesign the Ed.D. and to make it a stronger and more relevant degree for the advanced preparation of school practitioners and clinical faculty, academic leaders and professional staff for the nation’s schools and colleges and the learning organizations that support them.” - See more at: http://cpedinitiative.org/about

CPED Definition of the Ed.D:

"The professional doctorate in education prepares educators for the application of appropriate and specific practices, the generation of new knowledge, and for the stewardship of the profession."