In each edition, we want to share information about the work of our scholar practitioners!

- **Meredith Chandler** in Cohort II was appointed principal of Stokesdale Elementary School in Guilford County.
- **Tounya Wright** from Cohort I was named Director of Hillside New Tech High School in Durham Public Schools on October 25th.
- **Jonathan Thill** from Cohort I was a featured speaker for the HRD/CRC Training Academy earlier this month. His presentation Birds Flock, Fish School, and People Tribe is grounded in the concepts from Tribal Leadership.
- **Alexander Aguilar** from Cohort II helped coordinate a Latino Fiesta at Hillside High School in Durham Public Schools on October 24th.
- **Jesse Pratt** from Cohort I and Principal of the Great James Benson Dudley High School hosted an event on December 11th focused on “Creating and Sustaining school-wide focus on Student Achievement.”
- **Tina Johnson** from Cohort II and Chair of the Professional Learning for the National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC) developed a wiki highlighting resources for alternative certification providers. The wiki received the highest number of hits ever in NAAC’s history!

### An Evening with Dr. Nido Qubein

One of the pedagogies utilized in our Program is interaction with significant leaders in the field. Doctoral candidates from Cohorts I and II joined faculty and guests in December, 2013, to participate in An Evening with **Dr. Nido Qubein**. This event is held annually and provides an opportunity for doctoral candidates to hear from one of the nation’s most dynamic presenters, who has demonstrated transformational leadership in his role as President of High Point University. Doctoral students also had an opportunity to hear from **Dr. Mariann Tillery**, Dean of the School of Education, who welcomed the students and encouraged them in their educational and career pursuits.
**Instructional Rounds in Yadkin County: Myra Cox**

Another feature of our Program is integration of theory and practice. A great example from one of our current students in Yadkin County Schools is the new model of professional development. The Leadership Team, including the superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, Central Office directors, principals, and assistant principals, have begun a book study on Instructional Rounds in Education by City, Elmore, Fiarman, and Teitel. Inspired by the medical-rounds model used by physicians, the authors have pioneered a new form of professional learning known as instructional rounds networks. Upon completion of the book study, the Leadership Team will divide into small networks, conduct classroom visits in schools across the district, and observe the students using the Effective Learning Environment Observation Tool (ELEOT), the same tool used by AdvancED teams. Following the visitation, networks will debrief with the principal of each school and provide specific feedback on problems of practice. For more information, contact Ed.D. candidate Myra Cox at coxm12@highpoint.edu Myra serves as the Chief Academic Officer in Yadkin County Schools.

**Notes from the Faculty**

Fall semester was busy as the Education Leadership Doctoral Program added a new 2013 cohort (with 22 students) and a new professor, Dr. Martin. Our 2012 cohort of 20 students continued to blaze new trails with courses never taught before – Political Systems, and Community and Public Relations. A current topic in the state that impacted both of these courses was the new requirement for superintendents to recommend 25% of their teachers who were proficient and had served for three years in their districts to receive a salary increase of $500 a year for the next four years in exchange for the identified teachers giving up tenure. Doctoral students had the opportunity to hear from Ann McColl, the chief legal counsel for NCAE, talk about some of the decisions that district’s staff would have to make this year. Ann McColl’s presentation led to HPU hosting a meeting with Ann and the executive committee of the North Carolina School Superintendents’ Association to discuss the many different interpretations of the language of the new statute. With 14 superintendents in the room, Dr. Farrington, shared information about HPU’s doctoral program in school leadership. Dr. Farrington also offered superintendents the opportunity to use the Studio platform being developed by the “PurpleNetwork” for use by the doctoral students at HPU, Western Carolina, and East Carolina.

The Ed.D. Program is fortunate to partner with many leading educators in North Carolina. When we host sessions with leading practitioners in the state, they bring expertise and best practices of leadership to our doctoral candidates. Dr. Randy Bledsoe, Superintendent of Elkin City Schools, provided an opportunity for our students to work in several aspects of the strategic planning process and provided an update in early Fall 2013 on district progress. Mr. Jack Hoke, Executive Director of North Carolina School Superintendents’ Association (NCSSA), contributed to doctoral students’ understanding of major issues faced by superintendents in the state, as he visited our classes in Fall 2013. Representative Donny Lambeth from Forsyth (and former School Board chairman for 18 years) provided students and an up close and personal view of how the General Assembly really works. Nora Carr, Chief of Staff in Guilford County Schools, led a session on the methods and metrics of public relations in December 2013. Ms. Carr also serves as President of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA), and we were fortunate to have her share her expertise with us. We were also fortunate to learn more about the North Carolina immigrant population and their assimilation into our communities, as Esther Idassi from Elimu Learning Center, provided an overview of needs of immigrant students in our schools. Finally, our very own Tina Johnson, from Guilford County Schools, and Jessica Dreher, from Thomasville City Schools, presented a session on serving the population of students in poverty in our school districts. The professional expertise and professional experiences shared by all of these individuals add authenticity to our scholar practitioner program, and we look forward to more research and practice in Spring 2014!
Welcome to our New Superintendents

Our Ed.D. candidates work in several school districts in North Carolina, a private school in Alabama, one community college in North Carolina, and one university in North Carolina.

We welcome new leaders to the following school districts:

Dr. Lory Morrow, Davidson County Schools
Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools
Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Thomasville City Schools
Dr. Beverly Emory, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools
Dr. Todd Martin, Yadkin County Schools

Read to Achieve in Davidson County Schools: Sonja Parks

The Read to Achieve program is a part of the Excellent Public Schools Act, which became law in July of 2012, and applies to all schools for the 2013-14 school year. In preparation for the implementation of North Carolina Read to Achieve, Davidson County Schools (DCS) created a committee of teachers, district and school-level administrators, and parents to serve on a local DCS Read to Achieve Committee. This team serves as a sounding board for local planning of professional development and consistent communication to inform parents of the requirements of this new law affecting third grade students.

In order to assist parents with understanding the steps to navigate third grade, Davidson County Schools Curriculum team, with the support of the Read to Achieve District Committee, created an infographic that provides a clear, visual representation of the required steps that a third grader will take along the pathway to becoming a fourth grade student. Schools have used the infographic and District Parental Advisory Council PowerPoint presentation documents to support their explanations during various parent night sessions this school year.

As we look toward the spring of 2014, the focus in DCS will be on beginning the implementation of the Reading Portfolio requirement. We will also be researching and creating local policy and procedures for the implementation of our Summer Reading Camp. We should receive funding for Summer Camp from the state in early Spring and will work to create a structure that will maximize and support student learning. Our District Curriculum Staff and our local Read to Achieve Committee will continue to provide on-going support for teachers, students, and parents, as we continue this journey together. For more information, contact Ed.D. candidate Sonja Parks at parkss12@highpoint.edu

Sonja serves as the Director of Elementary Education in Davidson County Schools.
At High Point University, every student receives an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment with caring people.

Recruiting for the next doctoral cohort is currently underway. The next HPU Graduate Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2014. To accommodate the many different schedules, two options will be available. One will be 5:00-5:45pm and another will be 5:45-6:30pm on the campus of High Point University. Please check the HPU Graduate School website for details and any questions about the Open House or the application process should contact Tracy Collum at tcollum@highpoint.edu or call 841.9198.

Faculty Notes Continued...

In August, 2013, Dr. Barbara J. Mallory and Dr. Vernon T. Farrington presented at the 67th Annual National Council of Professors of Educational Administration Conference in Meadowlands, New Jersey. The title of the presentation was “Leading the Future: University Perspectives of the New Dissertation in Practice.” The presentation focused on various ways to conceptualize and complete a dissertation designed specifically for scholar practitioners.

Dr. Don Martin serves as one of North Carolina’s seven delegates to the Education Commission of the States. He attended the December meeting and had a chance to spend some time with Rep. Craig Horn, the NC House Appropriations Chair. Also, Dr. June Atkinson, State Superintendent, has asked Dr. Martin to serve on the Board of Directors for the Research Education Laboratory (REL) Southeast.

In November, 2013, Dr. Vernon T. Farrington and Dr. Barbara J. Mallory presented a paper at the 2013 University Council of Education Administration in Indianapolis, Indiana. They presented a paper titled, “The Catalyst: Developing a New Doctorate in Educational Leadership at High Point University.” Their presentation was part of a symposium titled, “Ecologies of Innovation: Collaboration across Critical Communities in New Doctoral Programs in North Carolina.” They joined faculty members from other universities across the state to discuss new ways to collaborate in the formation of doctoral programs of practice.

The High Point University Doctoral Advisory Committee held their fall semester meeting on December 3, 2013, in the School of Education. The board welcomed new members Dr. Mary E. Rittling, President of Davidson County Community College, and Dr. Beverly Emory, Superintendent of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. The board received an update on a variety of program initiatives and participated in a presentation by Dr. Mike Renn, Owner/CEO of RENNEWAL, LLC. Dr. Renn is a former administrator with Guilford County Schools and also a former faculty member with the Center for Creative Leadership. The Board discussed possible ways to utilize leadership assessments to help scholar practitioners develop as educational leaders.