



Educating through Leadership and Ethics

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*Real leadership is being the person others
will gladly and confidently follow*

An idea

“A true man is not more than another, rather he does more than another.” — Cervantes

Today, more than any other time in history, the well-being of the United States is intertwined with that of the rest of the world. The future of the U.S. depends on creating strong ethical leaders--it is an ideal time for all educators, especially those at our universities, to take an active role in supporting programs endeavoring to find solutions to the challenges of the 21st century. CEPA brings together an interdisciplinary group of professionals from all fields to work in partnership to meet future challenges in an international setting. By establishing collaborative, cooperative arrangements and partnerships to meet this goal, the university becomes the focal point in “*Educating through Leadership and Ethics.*”

OLLU and CEPA - A providential match made in heaven

In 1998, Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio, began offering a PhD in Leadership Studies. At that time, there was skepticism among many academicians that leadership could actually be studied, or that there was sufficient knowledge available to

study it at the doctoral level. In 1998-1999, about 14 students completed the first year of coursework. The program’s focus from the beginning has been to produce practitioner-scholars. This term connotes that most of the graduates will remain in organizational leadership positions, rather than try to obtain university teaching appointments. To allow working adults to study leadership in a classroom setting, all classes are held on Saturdays, eight Saturday’s per semester.

The program grew and by 2001, had enrolled first through fourth-year doctoral students not only studying leadership but also performing research as the foci of their doctoral dissertations.

By 2002, many campuses across the country had made “producing leaders” a part of their undergraduate emphases. The Department of Leadership Studies began offering an entire bachelors degree in organizational leadership that year, and began offering a masters degree in organizational leadership in 2005.

In 2008, the Department of Leadership Studies began offering the PhD in Leadership Studies in the Rio Grande Valley. Originally San Antonio based faculty commuted for teaching Saturdays, but by 2013, the university hired

two full-time faculty members for LaFeria, Texas. In 2010, the university began offering the doctoral program in leadership studies in Houston, Texas. In 2013, the first full-time faculty member began teaching in Houston and in 2018 a second full-time professor will join the Houston-based faculty. From 14 doctoral students in 1998, the department has grown to a point at which, during a typical semester, there are over 150 doctoral students studying leadership in classrooms and nearly 100 masters students studying leadership either in classrooms or on-line.

CEPA ventures into Texas



In the late 2000's the Collaborative Educational Programs for the Americas Leadership (CEPA) conference under the vision of founder and president, Dr. Fred J. Rodriguez, typically held an event in the Corpus Christi area. Those conferences coincided with the first group of doctoral students from the Rio Grande Valley entering the dissertation research phases of their program. The coordinator of the Rio Grande Valley program, Dr. Phyllis Duncan encouraged many of the students to attend and present their research at these conferences. When CEPA began offering annual conferences in San Antonio, in 2012, both Drs. Duncan and Meghan Carmody-Bubb encouraged students from all three leadership studies locations to attend and present their research and receive feedback and mentoring opportunities with industry, military, business, civil, and education leaders. In any given year, there are over 100 doctoral students from the department active at some phase of their dissertation research.

In a more traditional doctoral program, students are teaching assistants and perform

their dissertation research in the genre for which their dissertation chair is interested. Because the doctoral students in the Department of Leadership Studies are almost all full-time leaders and part-time doctoral students, they select leadership topics that are of value to them. Over the years, departmental dissertations have included such broad ranging topics as the study of school leadership, corporate leadership, bias in demographic perceptions of leaders, advanced statistical analyses on instruments to measure leadership and content analysis of speeches and text from famous leaders. The richness of these research topics has contributed to the variety of research that faculty and students of the Department of Leadership Studies present each year.



In 2012, Dr. Bob Bisking, former Dean of the School of Business and Leadership, became a member of the CEPA advisory council, and Dr.'s Duncan and Carmody-Bubb became members of the conference editorial board. In 2013, Our Lady of the Lake University became a member of the CEPA consortium. In 2016, Our Lady of the Lake University partnered with Dr. Rodriguez and assumed conference director responsibilities under Dr. Michael J. Laney, Dean and Professor, College of Arts and Sciences.



In 2015, CEPA, through the guidance and leadership of Dr. Michael Laney, expanded its forum for research to undergraduate students. A partnership was formed between Our Lady of the Lake University's McNair Scholars program and CEPA. Under Ms. Cristal Lopez, Coordinator, McNair Scholars program, undergraduate students were

transitioned from spectators to participants. This forum also allowed undergraduate students the rare opportunity to network with doctoral leadership studies students and receive vital feedback and guidance on their research as well.

CEPA conferences have been held in San Antonio four years in a row, from 2013 to 2016. Delegates attending these events in San Antonio have come from colleges and universities throughout Texas and from top-tier universities across the nation.



Working in partnership

Prestigious universities providing leadership at CEPA conferences during the past six years in Texas include: Indiana State University, Our Lady of the Lake University, New Mexico State University, Pepperdine University, Prairie View A&M University, University of Houston-Victoria, St. Mary's University, Texas Christian University, Texas A&M International University, Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, Texas Tech University, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at San Antonio, University of the Incarnate Word, University of New Hampshire, and Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto de Aguadilla.

Journal of collaborative leadership

In 2016, Drs. Meghan Carmody-Bubb, and Phyllis Duncan created a publishing channel for those interested in CEPA to learn more about leadership through their contributions to

establishing the *Journal of Collaborative Leadership*. Members of the editorial board from OLLU were: Drs. Meghan Carmody-Bubb, Phyllis Duncan, Malcom Ree, Mark T. Green, Maureen Cuevas, and Michael J. Laney. Additionally, scholars from other institutions were recruited, such as Drs. Theresa Garfield, Thomas Cornell, Fred Rodriguez, Nathan Templeton, and Kent Willis. The inaugural journal went online in the summer of 2017, providing a forum for peer-reviewed scholarly research related to the CEPA conference goals, which focus on bridging a gap between the education of future leaders and applications of leadership within the community.

http://www.cepa2000.org/cepa_2017_jcl.html

Editors-in-Chief:

Meghan Carmody-Bubb, Ph.D.
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Article by:

Drs. Mark T. Green, Meghan Carmody-Bubb,
Phyllis Duncan, and Michael J. Laney

Presentations and publications

CEPA conferences provide an opening for delegates to present their ideas on leadership, with a concentration on ethical, interdisciplinary, and/or international leadership. Presentations include papers, abstracts, student projects, case studies and work-in-progress.

Delegates also have the opportunity to publish their work in the *Journal of Collaborative Leadership*, an open access, peer-reviewed, online journal published annually through the Collaborative Educational Programs for the Americas (CEPA) website. A session on how to publish articles in the journal are also scheduled during these conferences.

Likewise, editorial board members are available to assist delegates in the publication process. Future leaders should take advantage of these occasions and seek mentors to advance their professional careers.

Fred Rodríguez Ph.D, can be reached at cepa2000@earthlink.net
www.cepa2000.org