Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource.

- John F. Kennedy

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

- Benjamin Franklin

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Dr. Joan Henley became the Director of the Center for Excellence in Education in July of 2018. She had previously assumed the role as the Interim Director of the Center on July 1, 2017. The Center is grateful for her leadership and knowledge as she guides us through the ever-evolving field of education. Dr. Henley comes to us with many years of experience, having been an elementary and middle school teacher and principal, director of special education, and assistant superintendent in public schools. She has been a professor with Arkansas State University since 2003 in the Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Special Education department as well as the School of Teacher Education. Welcome, Dr. Henley!

Dr. John Beineke retired from the Center for Excellence in Education on December 31, 2017. While with Arkansas State University, Dr. Beineke served as the Dean of the College of Education from 1999-2009, then returned to the classroom to teach in the Center and the Educational Leadership department from 2009 until his retirement, as well as chairing several dissertation committees. Dr. Beineke’s dedication, expertise, knowledge, compassion for his students, as well as his wonderful sense of humor will be greatly missed.
<table>
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<th>Grad Yr</th>
<th>Grad Term</th>
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As a literacy specialist with the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Merlina McCullough (Cohort, 15) has traveled the state conducting professional development presentations at various workshops and conferences, many of which are presented in the collage to the left. She also served on the Arkansas Educational Standards Revision Committee.

Dr. Wendy Rickman, Cohort XII, recently took a new position at the University of Central Arkansas in the Department of Teaching and Learning. She is now teaching the Undergraduate Middle-Level Teacher Education and MAT program, and Analysis & Practice of Teaching. In addition, she is one of the Internship I/Internship II University Supervisors and MAT Internship University Supervisors. She celebrates her second year with the department.

Dr. Merlina McCullough, Cohort XV, is celebrating her retirement (as of June 2016) with 25+ years in education where she served as a classroom teacher, Assistant Principal, Curriculum Director, ESL Director, and K-12 Literacy Specialist for schools and for the state. Since her retirement, she has formed her own consulting company, Educational Quality Solutions (EQS Consulting), who serves schools by providing professional development support in the areas of literacy, leadership, ESL, brain-based strategies, PLC (Professional Learning Community), and more. Her consulting company serves Arkansas schools and beyond. In addition, she is now a Lead Evaluator/Consultant for Advanc-ed and has served in Arkansas schools as well as other states conducting external visits for school/district accreditation. In March of 2018, she served on her first global Advanc-ed visit in the Philippines, her native country.

Dr. Krishna Bista, Cohort XIX, Associate Professor, Department of Advanced Studies, Leadership and Policy (School of Education & Urban Studies), Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD has been very busy this past year.

Dr. Krishna Bista, an associate professor in Morgan’s School of Education and Urban Studies Department of Advanced Studies, Leadership and Policy, was selected as winner of the Comparative and International Education Society’s (CIES) prestigious ‘Best Book Award’ for his contribution to the publication Campus Support Services, Programs, and Policies for International Students. The book, which explores the role of university administration in successful implementation, regulation, and support of study abroad experiences, was selected by the CIES Higher Education Special Interest Group Awards Committee for making a unique contribution to developing scholarship in the field of international and comparative higher education and showing originality and rigor. The organization honored Dr. Bista at the CIES 2018 Conference in Mexico City.

New Book Published

International Student Mobility and Opportunities for Growth in the Global Marketplace

Krishna Bista (Morgan State University, USA) IGI Global Copyright: © 2018 | ISBN13: 9781522534518|DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-3451-8 | This book is a critical scholarly resource that examines recent trends in global student mobility in Australia, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Europe where the emerging trends and practices are prominent. Featuring coverage on a broad range of topics such as internationalization, cultural identity, and student mobility, this book is geared towards educators, education administrators, education professionals, academicians, researchers, and students.
Research Articles

Paper Presentations

Bista leads an international journal
*Journal of International Students*, an academic quarterly publication in international education has published its latest issue (Volume 8 No 2, May-August, 2018). Krishna Bista, Associate Professor of Higher Education at Morgan State University School of Education is the founder editor of this journal. This issue includes 30 essays both empirical and theoretical pieces written by professors, students, and practitioners. Dr. Uttam Gaulee, Assistant Professor of higher education at Morgan State University has written a guest editorial for this issue. There are 160 experts on this journal’s editorial board including a few professors and doctoral students from Morgan State University. This is an academic, interdisciplinary, and peer-reviewed publication (Print ISSN 2162-3104 & Online ISSN 2166-3750) on international student affairs and study abroad. This journal features narrative, theoretical and empirically-based research articles, student/faculty reflections, study abroad experiences, and book reviews relevant to international students and their cross-cultural experiences and understanding in international education. The journal’s audiences include scholars and researchers of international education, academic professionals working with international students in a variety of programs, and others who are interested in international students in colleges and universities. The journal has been indexed in ERIC, ProQuest, EBSCOHost, OCLC/WorldCat, IDP Database of Research on International Education (Produced by Australian Council for Educational Research for IDP), Ulrich’s Web, Scopus, Cengage, Index Copernicus International, and Cabell’s Directory of Journals.

You can access digital copies of this journal at [https://jistudents.org/](https://jistudents.org/)
2017 - 2018 GRADUATES

August, 2017
Dr. Regina Williams, #23
Dr. Steve Leslie, #23
Dr. Rickey Greer, #18
Dr. Heather Allison, #17

December, 2017
Dr. Martha Spack, #16
Dr. Heath Sanders, #20
Dr. David Rutledge, #18
Dr. Keith Reed, #22
Dr. Arch Jones, #20

May, 2018
Dr. Kimberley Johnson, #22
Dr. Brandy Humphrey, #20
Dr. Richard O’Connell, #24
Dr. Dava Brock, #23

(Cohort # listed beside name)

Pictured below are Richard O’Connell (Cohort 24) and his Dissertation Committee after his successful oral dissertation defense. From left to right, Dr. Alicia Shaw, the new Dr. Richard O’Connell, Dr. Joe Nichols, Dr. Rick Hux, and Dr. Joan Henley.
Cohort 25 was our first hybrid online cohort! They just completed their two years of online coursework in May, 2018. Now, they will focus on their dissertation research and writing until they complete the oral defense of the dissertation. Cohort members are shown below.

Lori Edgin  
Veronica Manning  
Brandi Wallace  
Sharesa White
During the past year, Dr. Amany Saleh published and presented the following:

**Publications**


**Presentations**

Saleh, A., & Yu, Q. (2017, March). Equality of college placement policies in Mainland China, Egypt, and USA. A paper at the Annual Comparative and International Society Conference, Atlanta, GA.


Mission Statement

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro established the Center for Excellence in Education in 1992. The Center for Excellence provides the following services:

- A program of academic preparation of educational leaders to serve in local, state, regional, or national organizations that have education as an integral component;
- Research and development inclusive of evaluative and consultant services to secondary, post-secondary, and other educational agencies.