



Wilkes University

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION FALL 2021

"Let's raise children who won't have to recover from their childhoods"

~Pam Leo



Greetings from: Dr. Rhonda M. Rabbitt, Dean

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Thank you for being here!

Staying connected and communicating is critically important to stay current and to feel a sense of belonging and you belong here, as part of the Wilkes family. I invite you to personally reach out to me, because the world needs positive influencers working together more than ever.



As we at Wilkes University re-gather on-campus, under the new leadership of President Cant and Provost Ward, it is imperative for us to pause to intentionally vision forward, with a re-commitment to who we are individually and as a unit, and to our purpose for being here.

I know that the people working within the School of Education are passionate, caring leaders within the field. What I am most proud of, is the depth in the truth of this statement. We are the pioneers, the change agents, and the believers in what is possible for what is needed in education and the world. Each individual within our school embodies love for their work and working together.

In the School of Education, we want to inspire and innovate leaders for preK-12 school systems, locally and globally.. We are actively participating in readings, workshops and conferences to expand our own knowledge and skills so that our teaching is the most responsive and relevant that it can be for students, today and tomorrow. We are partnering, with intention, to create or expand pathways for those who desire to become part of the educational process, especially those who have been limited in access or affordability.

NEWS, EVENTS & ACCOLADES

"Wilkes Homecoming 2021"

Join us October 1-3 for a weekend of making memories with your family of Colonels! Make room in your schedule to join us for the inauguration of President Cant, share memories & drinks with Pints with Professors, support our athletic teams at the games and more! Register online at www.wilkes.edu/homecoming or call 570-408-7787. \$5.00 of your registration will be donated to the Wilkes Fund in your honor.

DOCTORAL DEPARTMENT, DR. KARIM LETWINSKY

The Doctoral Department was excited to welcome over 100 of our US students to campus for residency this August. In the current, challenging COVID environment, we worked together to create possibilities for the face-to-face learning experiences we so value in our low-residency doctoral community. I want to thank all of our US students who attended and worked with us to make this happen. We are looking forward to the February 2022 residency with our international students in Dubai and how we might work together to accomplish our learning goals in the most meaningful and safe way. Despite the challenges we have all encountered in the last year, we celebrate 33 successful proposal defenses and 34 successful dissertation defenses! We also celebrate international doctoral students Melissa Schaub and David Callaway for recognition as Distinguished Principals by the National Association of Elementary Principals! Our students, both here in the US and abroad, are blazing a trail of outstanding leadership in education.

MASTERS DEPARTMENT, DR. CHARLES SMARGIASSI

It's hard to believe another school year has begun! As educators we stand with you during these unprecedented times in solidarity and admiration for the work you have done to make the past two years as successful as possible for all students. Here at the Wilkes Master's Level School of Education we stand ready to help you develop the tools you need to erase Covid learning gaps and improve educational opportunities. With innovative endorsements in Online Teaching, STEM Education, and Instructional Coaching as well as full master's degrees in Literacy, Instructional Technology, ESL, Principal Leadership and others, we are prepared to help you meet your professional development goals and make a real difference in the world of education. It is with anticipation that we welcome back the traditional homecoming events of years past. If you plan to visit the campus during this time of celebration of Colonel pride, be sure to stop by and say hello at Pints with Professors. We look forward to connecting with you!

UNDERGRADUATE DEPARTMENT, DR. SUZANNE GALELLA

The Undergraduate Department in the SOE is developing new initiatives to improve the lives of students and teachers in the field of education. This academic year we are enrolling our inaugural special education major cohort. The stand-alone major will offer students a deeper level of special education experiences ranging from birth to adulthood to better serve the students they work with when they graduate from Wilkes. Our newly developed virtual supervision model and partnership with SIBME has given our students dedicated support during field, professional development, and student teaching experiences whether in face-to-face or virtual situations. We hope to restart our Casa Grande School District partnership in Arizona this spring. Our successful partnership had been put on hold due to the pandemic. Wilkes is distinct in offering such amazing opportunities!