

GOALS OF THE UNL/UNO JOINT DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

The Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Administration is designed specifically for the professional practitioner. Each day, school administrators are faced with the effects of increased global interdependence, accelerating social and technological change, conflicting values, and equity concerns. Those who would lead schools need to be armed with an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing them, a knowledge base that allows them to see the needs of the students and adults with whom they share the school experience, and skills that allow them to analyze situations and formulate approaches that will maximally capitalize on their own and the talents of those with whom they work.

Four primary goals shape the program. Implicit in them is the concept that the preparation of the person supersedes the preparation for any given role. Our plan is to help you attain an education that will hold its value across both time and distance.

Goal 1: *To help you continue to develop as an intellectual and moral leader.*

Because administrators represent values to those around them and perform acts, which flow from value judgments, the Joint Doctoral Program puts an emphasis on questions of deliberate moral choice, ethics of administration, value inquiry, and purpose. The program does not prescribe what you should believe; but it does require that you clarify, examine, challenge, and articulate your beliefs. The program also requires a high level of intellectual commitment.

Goal 2: *To help you become a better educator.*

The organizational framework for school administrators is anchored in two fundamental concepts: First, schools are places of growth and development for children and young people; and second, schools are work places for adults. In the integration of these two concepts is the foundation for effective school administration and the purpose of educational leadership.

Goal 3: *To help you continue learning.*

The program emphasizes thought processes that precede purposeful action. Administrators need to be able to assess situations quantitatively and qualitatively, be able to apply skills of analysis and interpretation, and be able to draw on the collected knowledge of the field in making decisions and laying plans. Quality administrators are continual learners and seekers of knowledge; people who have a sense of perspective, and are not limited only to producing momentary solutions to problems of practice.

Goal 4: *To help you work more productively with people.*

Schooling is an intensely human enterprise, and the heart of administration rests in how one behaves with people. The program provides for the creation of learning communities that incorporate understandings of the human condition. In content, the program reaches into allied disciplines such as psychology, sociology, political science, communication, gender studies, and organizational behavior. In practice, program delivery involves instructional approaches that promote cooperative effort, collegial relationships, and reflection.