

Debra Sullivan

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Academic Background

Ed.D. in Curriculum & Instruction, 2015

Loyola University Chicago

Dissertation: *Shifting Professional Culture in Catholic Schools: A Case Study*

Dissertation Chair: Michael J. Boyle, Ph.D.

M.A., Educational Administration, 1997

Type 75 Administrative Certificate, 1997

Rosary College (now Dominican University)

B.A., Major: History in Education, 1990

Whittier College

Whittier Scholars Program

Additional Training

Data Wise Leadership Institute, June 20-24, 2016, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.

Professional Experience

Assistant Director for Catholic School Leadership, Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education, Loyola University Chicago, School of Education, Chicago, Illinois (August 2016 – present)

- Coordinate the Catholic Principal Preparation Program
- Direct the admission process for the Catholic Principal Preparation Program
- Serve as Advisor for all Catholic Principal Preparation Program candidates
- Consult with schools and dioceses on school improvement projects
- Provide professional development programs and consulting services to Catholic school teachers and administrators
- Contribute to planning and developing program initiatives for the Greeley Center
- Teach courses in the School of Education

Consultant, Office of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Chicago (January 2017-Present)

- Provide ongoing coaching support for the Turnaround Regional Director in the implementation of the Archdiocesan Turnaround Program standards and expectations
- Collaborate with Turnaround Regional Director to assess the performance of principals using the new standards-based Principal Performance Review & Evaluation framework
- Collaborate with Turnaround Team leader to help train new Turnaround team members in the Turnaround Program philosophy and protocols.

Regional Director, Office of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Chicago (July 2014- December 2016)

- Provide transformational leadership and the strategic vision needed to ensure struggling schools find and follow a plan to sustainability
- Build and manage effective relationships with multiple school stakeholder and AoC policy groups, including Principals, Pastors, Vicariate Bishops, Parish & School Boards
- Communicate AoC standards, recommendations and expectations to Principals, Pastors and other local key stakeholder leaders
- Collaborates with Pastor to assess the performance of the principal using the new standards-based Principal Performance Review & Evaluation framework
- Manager of resources and multi-faceted projects which require coordination across multiple departments, stakeholder groups and timelines

Adjunct Professor – Loyola University Chicago, School of Education (January-May 2016)

- Taught ELPS 407 – Leading for Data-Based Decision Making

Principal, Northside Catholic Academy, Chicago, IL (July 2003-June 2014)

- Served as the Chief Financial Officer for the entire school, overseeing a budget in excess of \$3 million
- Worked with business manager to reverse deficit spending pattern and improve school's fiscal viability, including establishing an Endowment Fund
- Created an environment in which teachers and students are supported and experience success on a regular basis, leading to the US Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon School Award in 2013
- Assisted in the design and implementation of both a marketing and development plan for the school, leading to enrollment growth for the last 5 years
- Coordinated internal and external communications regarding the restructuring process of the school
- Prepared grant applications which have resulted in consistent awards to the school over the past 10 years
- Established a variety of collaborative relationships with local universities to support and enhance the instructional program for students and professional development for teachers

Principal, Our Lady of Mercy School, Chicago, IL (July 1997 – June 2003)

- Served as Instructional Leader of a Literature-based, hands-on, multi-age academic program
- Supervised the curriculum revision & integration process
- Prepared and managed the annual budget
- Collaborated with School Board on developing and implementing a school marketing plan

Classroom Teacher, St. Philomena School, Chicago, IL (August 1991-June 1997)

- Developed, planned and implemented lesson plans for grades 6-8 Social Studies, Religion, Reading, English & Spelling
- Served as faculty coordinator for numerous school events
- Initiated multiple extra-curricular activities to engage students in a productive setting after school hours
- Awarded Heart of the School for Deanery V in January 1994

Courses Taught

ELPS 407 Leading for Data-Based Decision Making

ELPS 482 School Supervision for Principals

ELPS 483 Human and Fiscal Resources for Principals

Professional Development Sessions and Workshops

Sullivan, D. (August 2017). *Professional Learning Communities: Shifting Professional Culture in Catholic Schools*. St. Edward Central Catholic High School. Elgin, IL.

Sullivan, D. (August 2017). *Professional Learning Communities: Teacher Leader Training*. St. Edward Central Catholic High School. Elgin, IL.

Morten, S.D. & Sullivan, D. (August 2017). *Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports: A Universal Approach*. Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education Elementary Schools Professional Development In-Service. Chicago, IL.

Morten, S.D. & Sullivan, D. (August 2017). *Developing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)*. Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education Elementary Schools Professional Development In-Service. Chicago, IL.

Boyle, M. & Sullivan, D. (July 2017). Diocese of Charleston New and Prospective Leaders Two-Day Professional Development, Columbia, S.C.

Morten, S.D. & Sullivan, D. (June 2017). *Leveraging Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to Support RtI/MTSS*. National Catholic Educational Association New Directions Exceptional Learners Conference, Evanston, IL

Morten, S.D. & Sullivan, D. (June 2017). *Professional Learning Communities: Shifting Professional Culture in Catholic Schools*. Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education Department Chair Conference, Chicago, IL.

Menden, M., Morten, S. D. & Sullivan D. (November 2016). *Professional Learning Communities: Shifting Professional Culture in Catholic Schools*. Diocese of Orange System-wide Professional Development Day Keynote, Anaheim, CA.

Menden, M., Morten, S. D. & Sullivan D. (November 2016). *The PLC Journey: Leading the Way*

Principal Breakout Session. Diocese of Orange System-wide Professional Development Day Principal Breakout Sessions, Anaheim, CA.

Goetz, P., Sullivan, D. & Rigg, J. (October 2016). *To Turn Around a School: Diocesan Strategies to Improve School Vitality.* National Catholic Education Association Catholic Leadership Summit. Indianapolis, IN.

Morten, S.D. & Sullivan, D. (October 2016). *Beginning to Implement RtI/MTSS in a Catholic School.* The Mustard Seed Conference, Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education, Chicago, IL.

Morten, S.D. & Sullivan D. (October 2016). *Taking Your RtI/MTSS Program to the Next Level.* The Mustard Seed Conference, Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education, Chicago, IL.

Menden, M., Morten, S. D. & Sullivan D. (March 2016). *Professional Learning Communities: Shifting Professional Culture in Catholic Schools.* National Catholic Educational Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

Morten, S.D. & Sullivan, D. (October 2015). *Applying Principles of RtI/MTSS in Catholic Schools: Creating Lasting Change.* The Mustard Seed Conference, Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education, Chicago, IL.

Morten, S. D. & Sullivan, D. (October 2014). *Applying the Principles of RtI in Catholic Schools.* The Mustard Seed Conference, Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education, Brookfield, IL.

Publications

Morten, S., Sullivan, D. and Menden, M. (in press). *Called to Community: Implementing PLCs in Catholic Schools.* Arlington, VA.: National Catholic Education Association.

Research Interests

Professional Learning Communities in Catholic schools
Administration and Supervision in Catholic schools
Supporting Inclusion in Catholic schools
Sustainability of Catholic schools
Teacher leadership in Catholic schools

Community Involvement

Academic Council member – Trinity High School, Oak Park, IL.
Board of Specified Jurisdiction member and Academic Committee Co-Chair, Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph School, Chicago, IL.
Facilitator for Virtus Trainings in the Archdiocese of Chicago
AdvancEd Site Review Team member – Office of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Chicago

Memberships

Omicron Delta Kappa (inducted Spring 1989)

Alpha Sigma Nu (inducted Fall 2013)

National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)

Catholic Higher Ed Supporting Catholic Schools (CHESCS)

University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA)

Illinois Council of Professors of Educational Administration (ICPEA)

Association for Leadership Educators (ALE)

Illinois Principal Association (IPA)

Learning Forward (The Professional Learning Association)

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)