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New Graduate Student Research Center to be Based in School of Education

May 8, 2017



Lindenwood University is now the home of a new center dedicated to supporting graduate student research. The Future Institute Research Center, a branch of Future Institute Concept Schools, is closely aligned with the School of Education's Department of Educational Leadership at Lindenwood.

Dr. Lynda Leavitt, director of the new center, says it will become a premier location for researching issues related to high school to college transition, post-secondary education, and college and career achievement and will assist graduates in becoming sought-after experts in the field of education. For the first time, research funding, provided by the center, will be available for doctoral students whose research aligns with the center's mission.

The Future Institute Research Center was developed after a year-long investigation on Concept Schools graduates conducted by Leavitt and Lindenwood Education Associate Professor Dr. Sherrie Wisdom. The center will conduct research, publish and present study results, publish an online and printed journal titled *Future Review*, and serve as the advisory board for an annual conference, Future Forum.

"The Concept Schools Future Institute Board was very interested in supporting ongoing research specifically focused on transition and post-secondary success," said Leavitt.

Leavitt added the center will aspire to foster an environment in which all research fellows can do their best work, strengthened and enriched by different perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences through a commitment to “attract and retain highly qualified researchers and scholars; be open and receptive to a variety of perspectives in conducting and disseminating the results of research; and increase our potential, effectiveness, and creativity by offering the broadest possible range of approaches to addressing issues and solving problems by holding ourselves to high standards of ethics and integrity,” she said.

“There are many studies about educational impact on students,” said Dr. Cynthia Bice, dean of the School of Education at Lindenwood. “The big questions are, does it make a difference, is it working as well as we think that it is? Being a part of the Future Institute will allow us to build on our relationship with Concept Schools while giving research-based information to the outcomes of that work.”

In addition to Leavitt as director of the center, members include research fellows Dr. Radhi Al-Mabuk, of Iowa State University; Dr. Amanda Aldridge, of Lindenwood University; Dr. D. Antonio Cantu, of Bradley University; Dr. John Klatt, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Dr. Sherrie Wisdom, of Lindenwood University.

For more information about the Future Institute Research Center, contact Leavitt at lleavitt@lindenwood.edu or visit the center at <http://www.lindenwood.edu/firc>.