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# UIS Weekly

Campus News at the University of Illinois at Springfield

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Volume 16, No. 7  
February 28, 2000  
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Office of Campus  
Relations, 206-6716

## Educational leadership online program is first of its kind in the nation

UIS will offer an online master's degree in education, the master of arts in educational leadership (EDL) with a master teacher leadership (MTL) concentration, beginning with three classes this fall. It is the third online degree offered by UIS.

"This online master's degree in EDL is the first of its kind in the nation," said Larry Stonecipher, dean of the College of Education and Human Services. "I have been asked over and over again by classroom teachers when UIS was going to offer a master's degree for teachers. Well, now we do."

UIS received a grant of over \$240,000 from the U of I Online program to cover the cost of developing the courses online.

The educational leadership program will continue to offer the concentration for principals on campus, but all 10 courses of the MTL concentration will be offered entirely online. And, unlike the other online courses UIS offers, none of the MTL courses will require a visit to campus.

The online master's degree will focus on the needs of the elementary and

secondary classroom teachers who want to grow professionally, work on certificate renewal, and improve the curriculum and instruction in their own classrooms.

"At the completion of the degree, teachers will be prepared academically to take the National Board's exam for the Master Teacher Certificate," said Stonecipher.

The goal of the MTL concentration is to provide practicing teachers with the opportunity to earn a high quality master's degree that could be used as a step toward Illinois or national board certification. Practicing teachers in Illinois began a new, tiered certification process on February 15.

UIS also offers the master's degree in management information systems and the bachelor's degree in liberal studies entirely online. This semester 567 students are enrolled in 30 online courses at UIS in MIS, liberal studies, and other topics.

For more information about the EDL online degree, call Allan Cook, co-director of the master's degree, at 6-6682.

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## Leatherwood appointed interim dean

Marya Leatherwood, associate professor and chair of the management department, has been named interim dean of the College of Business and Management, subject to approval by the U of I Board of Trustees. She replaces John Munkirs, who retired from UIS February 16.

Leatherwood holds the Ph.D. in organizational behavior from the University of Iowa; areas of special interest include managerial operations, strategic planning, and management education. Since coming to UIS/SSU in 1990 she has served in various administrative positions, including interim associate vice president for academic affairs.

"She is an excellent choice for this

challenging assignment, as the college pursues accreditation by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business," said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Wayne Penn. "I appreciate her willingness to serve in this capacity."

Munkirs, dean of the college since 1994, originally came to campus as an assistant professor of economics in 1972. In addition to his duties on the faculty, he served the campus as director of budget and planning from 1981 to '85, special assistant to the president from 1985 to '86, and chair of the economics department from 1988 to '89. He received SSU's Academic Achievement Award in 1985 and Distinguished Service Award in 1989 and 1990.

## Michael Ayers "retires"

Michael Ayers, professor of economics, director of the Office of Business and Management Development, and associate chancellor, left UIS February 15, after 28 years on campus, to become chief operating officer and executive vice president of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

Besides his teaching duties, Ayers had served UIS/SSU in various administrative capacities over the years, including vice president for academic affairs and most recently as interim associate chancellor in the chancellor's office.

Ayers earned the B.B.A. from Midwestern University and the M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

## Program will examine teaching undergraduates

Will teaching 18-year-olds be different than teaching older students? Should it be? The Capital Scholars program presents "The Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education," led by Susan Hatfield, beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, March 3, in BRK 415.

Hatfield is assessment coordinator and chair of the Department of Communication Studies at Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota, as well as editor and co-author of *The Seven Principles in Action: Improving Undergraduate Education* (Anker, 1995). The "seven principles," developed in 1987 by A.W. Chickering and S.F. Gamson with support from the American Association for Higher Education, distills research findings on effective undergraduate teaching into seven basic points. This book, and Dr. Hatfield's presentation, report on practical ways in

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