

The Ritchie Program for School Leaders will focus not only on developing the skills and abilities necessary for success as a school leader, but also on developing a strong commitment to core values essential for ethical and responsible leadership in urban settings. The following value statements form a framework for the program and shape the curriculum and internship experiences of students.

Action Orientation—

The framework for our course of study is built upon experiences that require participants to be action oriented leaders and researchers grounded in strategic instructional leadership.

High Expectations for Self and Others—

School leaders should hold high expectations for their own performance, as well as for the performance of all others in the school community. School leaders should embrace accountability as a tool for continuous improvement.

Equity—

All members of the school community are capable of learning and being successful in school. School leaders have a responsibility to establish learning conditions that meet the learning needs of all students.

Diversity—

There is a value in having diversity in schools. School leaders need to understand how cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, gender, etc. differences affect learning and leadership styles. Leaders have become culturally proficient leaders and understand how to lead a system that supports diversity.

Community—

Organizations, neighbors, and family members are key players in the education of children. School leaders should know how to mobilize resources in the family and in the community to support student learning.

Inspired Leadership—

School leaders should be committed to a vision of leadership that is collaborative, distributed, data-driven, effective, research-based, ethical, entrepreneurial, reflective, developmental and courageous.

Civic Engagement—

School leaders should create environments within their schools that help students develop the skills to be engaged citizens in our democratic society. School leaders should be aware of the cultural, political, social and historical context of education in the United States.

Explicit and Honest Communication—

School leaders should ensure that communication within the school community is explicit and honest.

Head, Hand and Heart—

Engaged and committed school leaders must be willing to fully dedicate their knowledge, skills, and passion towards the important work of creating effective schools for all learners.