

# COE Selected to Participate in a National \$47 Million Initiative



Educational Leadership & Research Methodology  
Chair Bob Shockley and Daniel Reyes-Guerra, Project  
Director and Principal Investigator, FAUPPI Wallace  
Foundation Grant

"Because many school districts don't have the capacity to train as many principals as they need or to train future principals at all, *the best way to reach more aspiring school leaders is through the university programs that typically provide needed certification.*"

- Will Miller, President of The Wallace Foundation



EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND  
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

College of Education  
Florida Atlantic University

The Wallace Foundation has selected FAU to participate in a national \$47-million University Principal Preparation Initiative, to develop models over the next four years for improving university principal preparation programs and to examine state policy to see if it could be strengthened to encourage higher-quality training statewide. An independent study will capture lessons from the participating universities and their partners to be shared with policymakers and practitioners across the country.

FAU, one of seven universities selected by the foundation, will get guidance on redesigning its programming from the University of Denver, which is nationally recognized for its high-quality program. FAU will partner with the three districts that hire most of its School Leader Program completers: Broward County Public Schools, the School District of Palm Beach County, and St. Lucie Public Schools. Together they will create and refine three university-district partnership professional development programs that lead to state certification as assistant principals and principals. The idea is to both ensure that the programs are targeted to the needs of local schools and to develop and embed within them research-based professional learning components that lead to improved student learning and highly-effective schools.

FAU's College of Education, along with district partners and Florida Department of Education, will receive in the first year \$2,337,499 to take on this work. Total budget for the four years, based on performance, could be over \$5,650,000.

FAU's partnership with Broward County will grow from the existing principal preparation program named PROPEL (Principal Rapid Orientation and Preparation in Educational Leadership), began in 2011. Two new partnerships designed to prepare educators to become qualified school leaders will be initiated with St. Lucie and Palm Beach school districts, ELITE (Educational Leadership: Internship to Excellence) in St. Lucie and EXEQ (Leadership for Excellence and Equity) in Palm Beach. Professor Daniel Reyes-Guerra, Educational Leadership & Research Methodology, will lead the UPPI project and direct the programs.

"We appreciate the support of the Wallace Foundation in helping us redesign our educational leadership programs and are very excited about the opportunity to develop and implement high-quality courses of study for assistant principals and principals to receive their pre-service learning," said Dean Valerie J. Bristol, College of Education.