



April 2026

From the College

“We are capable of everything!”

– Virgil

What an incredible year. I can hardly believe we are in the home stretch. A good friend of mine calls April “Cookie and Punch Season” because of all the end-of-year receptions, and it certainly feels that way.

I always enjoy the warmer weather and seeing so many students finishing their studies. This is a reflection not only of their hard work, but also of the incredible effort our faculty put in every day to support their success.

We do have several important updates to share:

Curriculum Realignment

Thank you for the feedback on the curriculum realignment project. We will move forward with transitioning the ABA program to the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research and the IDT program to the Department of Leadership. These are significant changes that will take time, with an anticipated implementation by July 1, 2027. We will continue to review additional recommendations from the Task Force as we move forward.

Shared Governance and Student Engagement

We will launch a Student Advisory Council this fall and begin developing a College Faculty Council. I appreciate the strong response supporting the work of the Shared Governance committee.

Dean’s Fellows

As we have decided not to fill the Associate Dean role at this time, we are reevaluating how those responsibilities will be distributed. As part of this, we will introduce two Dean’s Fellows for the 2026–2027 academic year. One will focus on Student Affairs, including the Honors Program and recruitment, and the other will focus on Research and Faculty Development.

Thank you again for your continued hard work and commitment to the College of Education. I look forward to seeing everyone at our End of Year College Meeting on April 30. Breakfast will begin at 8:00 a.m., with the meeting starting at 9:00 a.m.

Happenings: What's Going On This Month



April 2: Breakfast in Ball | Grab and Go
Ball Hall 215 | 8:30-10:00 am

April 6: Registration opens for Summer and Fall 2026 classes
View registration deadlines and details [👉 here](#).

April 23: TEP End of Year Celebration
UC Ballroom | 5:00-7:00 pm

April 30: End of Year Faculty and Staff Meeting
UC River Room 300 | 8:00-10:00 am

Research & Scholarship Highlights



Dr. Yu Wu publishes research on collaborative professional learning and teacher job satisfaction

MEMPHIS, Tenn.— Dr. Yu Wu, researcher with the Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP) in the University of Memphis College of Education, recently published research examining how collaborative professional learning influences teacher job satisfaction. Using data from the OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS 2018), the study found that collaboration has the greatest impact when it is embedded within a school's culture and supported by leadership. The findings highlight the importance of school-wide collaboration and collective efficacy in supporting teachers and strengthening professional learning environments.

[Read more about Dr. Wu's research »](#)



Dr. Lara Condon receives \$60,000 research contract to study AI in math classrooms

MEMPHIS, Tenn.— Dr. Lara Condon, assistant professor in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership in the University of Memphis College of Education, has received a \$60,000 research contract with EdLight to continue her research on how artificial intelligence can support teaching and learning in mathematics classrooms. The project will explore how AI-powered analysis of handwritten student math work can help teachers better understand student thinking and guide instructional decisions.

[Read more about Dr. Condon's research »](#)



Dr. James Meindl and Dr. Diana Delgado publish research on behavioral approaches to violence prevention

MEMPHIS, Tenn.— Dr. James N. Meindl, Professor of Applied Behavior Analysis, and Dr. Diana Delgado, Assistant Professor in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership, recently published research exploring how behavioral science can contribute to understanding and preventing mass violence. Their work applies principles of behavior analysis to examine patterns associated with violent behavior and highlight potential intervention strategies aimed at reducing risk and supporting prevention efforts.

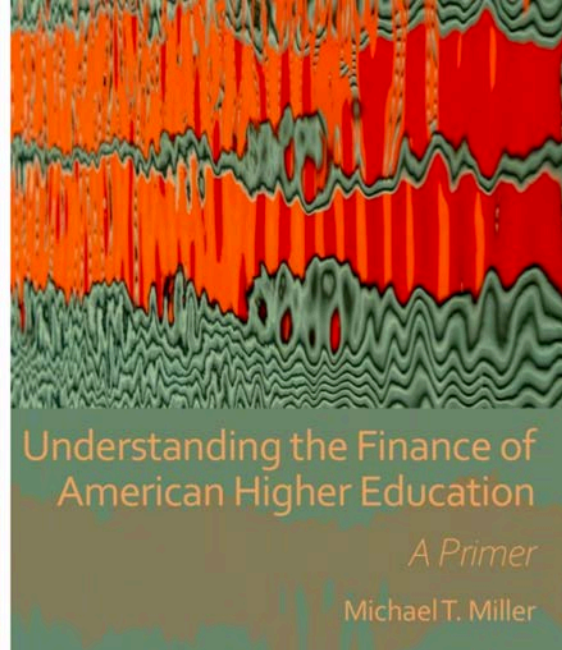
[Read more about their research »](#)



Dr. Dustin Hornbeck publishes article on the changing role of high school

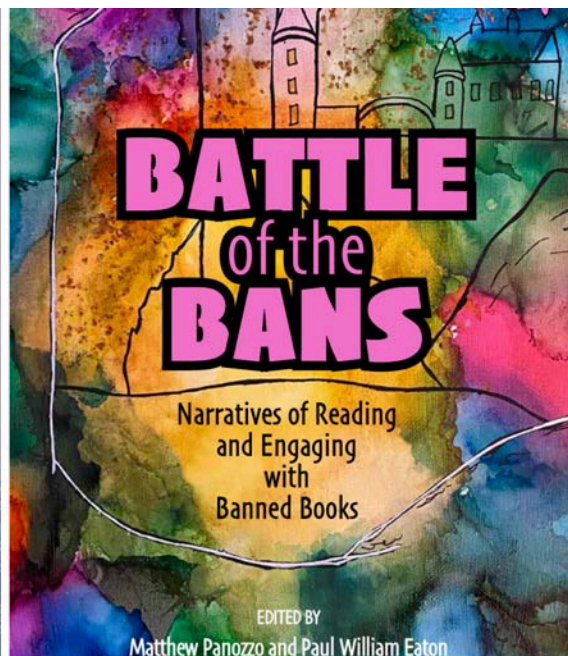
MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Assistant Professor Dustin Hornbeck has published a new article in Phi Delta Kappan titled “What Is High School Today?” The piece explores how dual enrollment, virtual learning, career and technical education and other experiences beyond the traditional classroom are reshaping high school and its role as a shared civic space.

[Read more about Dr. Hornbeck's research »](#)



Dean Michael T. Miller publishes new book exploring higher education finance

MEMPHIS, Tenn.- In this book, Dean Miller explores how colleges and universities have become reliant on multiple revenue streams and examines critical questions around funding, affordability, accountability and sustainability in higher education. The book also considers how institutional decisions around fundraising, outsourcing, athletics and real estate have shaped the financial landscape of today's academy. The book provides an accessible introduction to the complexities of higher education finance and offers insight into the future challenges facing colleges and universities.



Dr. Matthew Panozzo Co-Edits New Book Exploring Banned Books and Literacy

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Dr. Matthew Panozzo, faculty member in Instruction and Curriculum Leadership, has co-edited *Battle of the Bans: Narratives of Reading and Engaging with Banned Books*, published by Myers Education Press. The volume explores contemporary debates around banned books, literacy, and community engagement and includes

contributions from multiple University of Memphis scholars. The work reflects the College of Education's continued leadership in national conversations on teaching, learning, and equity.



Journal of Research on the College President Moves to UofM College of Education

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The Journal of Research on the College President has moved from the University of Arkansas to the University of Memphis College of Education (COE), effective January 2026. The journal was founded by former Arkansas Chancellor G. David Gearhart to explore the issues, challenges and opportunities facing today's college presidents.

[Read more »](#)

For more research publications, check out the [@COE LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook page](#)



Follow us:

COE Community Highlights



Congratulations

H.E. Rumble Outstanding Student Teacher Award
2026 Recipients



Katie DeLynn Ávila Bettencourt
Integrated Early Childhood Education

Aairreona Bailey
Physical Education

COE announces 2026 Rumble Award winners

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis College of Education has announced the recipients of the 2026 H.E. Rumble Outstanding Student Teacher Award, the college’s highest honor for student teachers. This year’s winners are Katie DeLynn Ávila Bettencourt and Aairreona Bailey, both currently completing their residency placements at Campus School. The awards recognize exceptional dedication and excellence in student teaching.

[Read more about this year's winners »](#)

OTECP Residency Winners | March 2026



JaBria McCraney
Student Teacher of the Month



Dr. Valerie Loggins
Supervisor of the Month



Jennifer Maley
Mentor Teacher of the Month

Student | Mentor | Supervisor of the Month: March 2026

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The College of Education Office of Teacher Education and Clinical Practice (OTECP) is proud to announce the recipients of Student Teacher, Mentor Teacher and Supervisor of the Month for March 2026: JaBria McCraney, Jennifer Maley and Dr. Valerie Loggins.



COE Faculty and Staff Recognized for Years of Service

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Several members of the University of Memphis College of Education were recently recognized for their years of service to the university. Honorees include Rosie Davis (40 years), Joanne Gikas (25 years), Cliff Mims and Carol Hunter (20 years), Kyle Nixon, Jennifer Bubrig and Amy Wilson (10 years) and Robert McKinney III and Lara Hunter (5 years). We thank them for their dedication and contributions to the College of Education community.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



From Instructional Design to Healthcare Leadership: Dr. Jacque Bradford

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Dr. Jacque Bradford, a three-time graduate of the University of Memphis College of Education, is leading the development of the new Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the Lambuth Campus. With degrees in Exercise and Sport Science, Human Movement Science and Instructional Design and Technology, she credits her Memphis experience with shaping her approach to learning, leadership and program development. Her work focuses on expanding access to healthcare education, strengthening the regional workforce and improving community health outcomes across West Tennessee.

[Read more about Dr. Bradford »](#)

Upcoming Date to Save

Fall Welcome Back Faculty and Staff Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

College of Education

memphis.edu/education

Follow us:



Contact us: 3798 Walker Ave., Memphis, TN 38111 | 901.678.4265