Mission Statement of Lewis University

Lewis University, guided by its Catholic and Lasallian heritage, provides to a diverse student population programs for a liberal and professional education grounded in the interaction of knowledge and fidelity in the search for truth. Lewis promotes the development of the complete person through the pursuit of wisdom and justice. Fundamental to its mission is a spirit of association which fosters community in all teaching, learning and service.

College of Education

The College of Education offers five distinct majors at the undergraduate level. These include Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Combined Special Education/Elementary Education and Secondary Education with teaching endorsements in English/Language Arts, Math, Science with designation in Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and Social Science with designation in History or Psychology. In addition, candidates can major in Theology with a minor in Secondary Education.


Executive Committee Members

Dr. Pamela Jessee, Dean of the College of Education
Dr. Jeanette M. Mines, Academic Associate to the Provost
Dr. Kurt Schackmuth, Vice President for Mission and Academic Services
Professor Larry Wiers, Director of the Institute for the Advancement of Catholic & Lasallian Education

For More Information

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The Institute for the Advancement of Catholic & Lasallian Education

promotes Catholic and Lasallian Education and prepares the next generation of educators and administrators to lead Catholic and Lasallian schools in their work to transform lives, educate all and instill Christian and Gospel values in those entrusted to their care.

By focusing on the following areas of service, the Institute offers assistance and programs to advance Pre-K through 12th grade education:

- Leadership Development
- Teacher Preparation
- Professional Development
- Outreach and Consulting
- Grants and Research
- Lasallian Formation

Maureen White, Principal of St. Irene Catholic Elementary School in Warrenville, receives the Fourth Annual Roger L. Kaffer Outstanding Diocesan Principal Award.
Areas of Service

Leadership Development
The College of Education offers a graduate program (M.Ed.) for Catholic and Lasallian Educators, specifically designed for faith-based principal preparation and/or teacher leadership. To assist aspiring Catholic school leaders, Lewis University provides tuition discounts and/or scholarships. The first Education Leadership cohort graduated in December 2013.

Teacher Preparation
Lewis University has always been committed to the formation of teachers for Catholic and Lasallian schools. An emphasis on service and education for those most marginalized is fundamental to Lasallian education.

Professional Development
College of Education faculty have provided professional development at Catholic and Lasallian schools in the areas of differentiated instruction, comprehension strategies, formative and summative assessment of learning, curriculum modifications for students with disabilities, RTI, inquiry-based science instruction, the common core standards, and working with English Language Learners in the classroom. Keynote addresses, workshops, presentations, and seminars will be customized to meet your needs.

Outreach and Consulting
Colleges across the University have reached out to Catholic and Lasallian schools in support of their vision and mission.

- The College of Arts and Sciences has provided technology consultation and the mechanism to administer “beginning of the year surveys” electronically, thereby facilitating an efficient and timely collection and analysis of data. Consultation is also offered on computer curriculum updating. Faculty has assisted with science fairs and social work interns are active in our partner schools. The Theology Department is currently piloting a dual credit online course for high school seniors at De La Salle Collegiate High School in Warren, Michigan. Through the collaborative efforts of Lewis faculty and the principal and staff of the high school, the course, Introduction to Christian Theology, was developed as an elective for selected seniors to earn college credit.

- The College of Business has offered marketing and communication consultation to St. Andrew the Apostle Elementary School in Romeoville to help boost enrollment. Marketing students, with the guidance of their professors engaged in an experiential learning project, working hand-in-hand with the principal to develop a marketing plan for the school. The strategies laid out in the plan focused on generating greater awareness of what the Catholic school can offer, helping to define its distinguishing characteristics, and promoting the significant role the school plays in the greater community.

Lewis Marketing Professor Robert Bergman (second from left) is recognized for his service to St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Elementary School in Romeoville.
The College of Education offers consulting services in Principal Mentoring, Principal Searches, Educational Change, Strategic Planning, Culture Building, Inclusion Programming, Curriculum and Assessment, Curriculum for Multi-Needs Students, and Reading Diagnostics. Also, the College of Education annually sponsors an award breakfast for principals in the Joliet Diocese and honors one principal with the Bishop Roger L. Kaffer Outstanding Principal Award.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has offered support to Diocesan Schools by performing duties typically implemented by a school nurse. Services have included management of health and immunization records, screenings and assisting with EKGs for sports physicals. The College has responded to Diocesan requests by developing and delivering presentations on sexuality for fifth grade students, health fairs for students on requested topics such as nutrition, hygiene, summer safety, and sports safety, and the CDC’s Tar Wars tobacco prevention program. The College also provides workshops to staff on requested topics and conducts blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar screenings.

Grants and Research

Lewis University and the College of Education actively seek grant funds to benefit Catholic and Lasallian schools. Recently, the College of Education secured a grant from the Community Foundation of Will County to partner with area Catholic schools to give teachers the tools and training needed to integrate technology into reading and writing lessons to enhance literacy instruction in high-need schools. The University also conducts and supports research related to effective practice in Catholic and/or Lasallian Education especially focusing on those most marginalized.

Lasallian Formation

The Institute offers a variety of mission-based professional development opportunities to expand and deepen faculty/staff understanding of Lasallian history, pedagogy, and spirituality, as well as Saint John Baptist de La Salle’s educational philosophy and his contributions to the teaching profession.

Exploring Lasallian Mission (ELM) Summer Workshop

Specifically designed for those who work in Lasallian schools or who want to deepen their understanding of the Lasallian charism, Lewis University’s Exploring Lasallian Mission (ELM) Program is a summer workshop held each June during four half-day sessions which address the following topics:

- History, Life and Times of Saint John Baptist de La Salle
- Teacher Formation and Classroom Pedagogy
- Social Justice and Spirituality
- Vocation and Association

Facilitated by Lewis University faculty and staff, the ELM Program can help Lasallian educators inform their own teaching, work practices, and the exploration of their vocation.

Customized Lasallian Formation Experiences and Seminars

Creative and customized Catholic and Lasallian formation experiences for teachers and staff can be developed with principals and campus ministers to address a variety of topics including: the vocation of teaching; the spirituality of the Lasallian educator; the Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher; the Conduct of the Christian Schools; and Saint De La Salle as classroom innovator.
Diocesan Tuition Discount Initiative

In recognition of dedicated service by the employees of the Diocese of Joliet and the Archdiocese of Chicago, and to encourage the pursuit of lifelong learning and the development of skills as educators and leaders, Lewis University is pleased to offer a 33% tuition discount. It is our hope that this incentive will encourage employees of the Diocese of Joliet and the Archdiocese of Chicago to pursue their higher education goals and become effective leaders in enhancing the spiritual and academic missions of their respective schools.

For more information visit: lewisu.edu/admissions/finaid/diocesetuition.htm

Catholic/Lasallian Scholarship Opportunity

Lewis University is dedicated to Catholic and Lasallian education and prepares teachers or administrators in a Catholic school in the Chicagoland area committed to school leadership. Lewis’ College of Education offers two scholarship opportunities for Catholic/Lasallian future school leaders seeking an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership with a Moral and Ethical Framework. The curriculum is grounded in the Lasallian Mission of knowledge, fidelity, wisdom, justice and association. Our classes combine reflective practice, multiple and varied pedagogy, as well as foster critical and creative thinking skills. As a result, the program provides excellent preparation for those committed to leadership in Catholic and Lasallian schools.

Scholarship recipients will receive 50% off of Ed.D. tuition for the duration of the program.

To qualify, scholarship recipients must meet all criteria for admission into the Ed.D. program and have a recommendation from their current school principal and/or president. Finalists will be interviewed.

The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership for Teaching and Learning admission packet, as well as the scholarship application can be found at lewisu.edu/edd.

For more information, please call (815) 836-5610 or e-mail grad@lewisu.edu.

St. Joseph High School Westchester is truly and deeply grateful for the relationship fostered between our two Lasallian educational communities. Since I arrived here in late August from Montini Catholic, we of St. Joseph High School have enthusiastically engaged in and forged a mutually beneficial partnership with Lewis University.

Our faculty and staff have benefitted greatly from the resources and counsel made available through Brother James in his capacity as President of Lewis University. As a result, our Business Office staff, our Technology Department staff and our Facilities staff all have derived resources, such as enhanced best-practices, counsel, workshops and seminars for our student body through the School of Business and Academic Departments of the University.

St. Joseph High School also serves as an educational community for Lewis University faculty, staff and students to have first-hand educational experience working in the classrooms and offices of a fellow Lasallian Institution. Given the nature of Shared Mission, we work at these matters together and by association!

I am humbled and deeply grateful and appreciative for the willingness of Lewis University to be our “partners” as together we seek to advance our own shared Lasallian educational missions going forward!

Brother Thomas Harding, FSC
President
St. Joseph High School
Westchester, IL
San Miguel School and Lewis University: A Flourishing Partnership

As part of an on-going partnership, Lewis University students have participated in service learning experiences at San Miguel Back of the Yards Campus in Chicago, Illinois. This extraordinary school opened in 1995 and serves approximately 80 Latino students in grades 6 through 8.

San Miguel specifically targets academically underachieving, low income, at-risk students and provides them with a model of education that includes an extended day schedule and a year-round calendar, individualized instruction with a 10:1 student-teacher ratio, and strong parental involvement. Students are accepted into San Miguel based on three main criteria: academic underperformance, financial need and living in proximity to the School.

“What a great way this was to end the school year!” said Marie Ryan, Special Education graduate student. “After everything I have learned in my classes at Lewis this year, participating in the service learning trip to San Miguel allowed me to see first-hand how much students benefit from having teachers that are passionate about what they are doing and the pride they take in the success of their students.”

College of Education students interact with the students, faculty and staff of the School. They observe in the classrooms, teach a lesson, read with the students, eat lunch with the students and even play soccer, softball and dodge ball with the students. In addition, the College of Education usually provides several boxes of school supplies and sports equipment donated by various community groups and the Lewis University learning community.

Marie Ryan’s favorite part of each day was reading one-on-one with the students. “It was so powerful to feel their excitement about reading and be able to see the stories through their eyes,” she said. “I hope that I am able to pass along that type of excitement about learning to my students when I am in the classroom.”

“The experience of San Miguel left me with much to think about,” said Kimberly Jurani. “I was so struck by how different their school is. I find it hard to believe any other classroom will ever measure up to their methods. I most appreciated the mutual respect between teacher and student and the consistent effort on the part of the faculty to foster long-term relationships with the students. These long-term relationships ensure success on the part of the students to go on to become college graduates.”

“Through participation in the San Miguel experience, I can clearly see how, as a teacher, understanding multiculturalism within the classroom is essential to the success of your students,” said Jennifer Sitar. “Every morning can bring a new challenge. How we are able to interpret the situation and react to it can dictate the rest of the day. Seeing this first-hand has helped me to understand how to fit the College of Education’s three core principles into my teaching practices.”

“This experience at San Miguel changed my life,” said David Nykiel. “The students were a lot of fun to work with. I know I learned more from them than they learned from me. These students know what kind of neighborhood they live in and strongly believe education is the best way to improve their lives and community.”
Institute for the Advancement of Catholic & Lasallian Education

Saint John Baptist de La Salle (1651-1719)
Patron Saint of Educators & Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

John Baptist de La Salle was the first son of wealthy parents living in Reims, France over 300 years ago. At the age of sixteen, he was named Canon of the Reims Cathedral, a high-level position in the Church. He completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest on April 9, 1678. Two years later, he received a doctorate in theology.

Meanwhile, De La Salle became involved in a project that involved training a group of rough and barely literate men to become teachers in order to establish schools for poor boys. At that time, a few people lived in luxury, but most were extremely poor. Only the wealthy could send their children to school. Moved by the plight of the poor, De La Salle determined to put his talents and advanced education at the service of the young people who had little hope for the future. To be more effective, he abandoned his family home, moved in with the teachers, renounced his position in the Church and his wealth, and so formed the community that became known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools, commonly known today as the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

De La Salle’s enterprise met opposition from Church authorities who resisted the creation of a new form of religious life. The educational establishment resented his innovative methods and his insistence on gratuity for all, regardless of whether they could afford to pay. Nevertheless De La Salle and his Brothers succeeded in creating a network of quality schools throughout France that featured students grouped in classrooms according to ability and achievement, integration of religious instruction with secular subjects, well-prepared teachers with a sense of vocation and mission, and the involvement of parents. In addition, De La Salle pioneered programs for training lay teachers and Sunday courses for working men.

In 1900, he was declared a Saint. In 1950, he was made Patron Saint of all those who work in the field of education. His charisma, educational spirituality, and extensive writings inspired Catholic educators in his own time and continue to inspire educators from many traditions today.

The Christian Brothers and the Lasallian Movement Today: A Worldwide Network

Today, the De La Salle Christian Brothers collaborate with thousands of Lasallian lay colleagues who live out the vision of Saint La Salle in service of over 1,000 education-related ministries in more than 80 countries around the world. This worldwide community of Christian Brothers, numbering about 4,500 today, serves alongside more than 70,000 lay colleagues for the benefit of nearly one million students of all ages. Many of those students attend one of approximately 70 Lasallian colleges and universities around the world. Here in the United States, there are approximately 100 Lasallian educational institutions. Lewis is one of six colleges and universities in this country sponsored by the Christian Brothers.