

AIC program offers options to educators

We live in an increasingly diverse, globalized, interdependent and complex society. The new millennium ushered in a dramatic technological revolution. Educators today are challenged to make a paradigm shift if they are to provide the education and skills students will need to succeed in this 21st century. We are reminded of a line from "Mission Impossible:" "Your assignment, should you choose to accept it," is to take education truly into the 21st century.

The doctoral program in education at American International College, accredited by the New England Association of Colleges and Schools, is designed to do just that.

It provides an opportunity for highly motivated educators to advance their teaching and leadership skills while continuing to work full-time. The program is a cohort-based, mentored-learning model in which students work independently with two core faculty. Students work on their degree plan, courses, and research over a period of

four years.

Five times a year, students meet for residency weekends on campus where they participate in workshops, are provided with lectures by full-time faculty and distinguished visiting professors on relevant topics, meet in small groups and develop a learning community with other students and faculty.

The doctoral program provides interdisciplinary, project-based, and research-driven coursework. It is connected to the community through fieldwork projects. The curriculum incorporates higher order analytic skills, research, technology and assessment.

The doctoral students are self-directed, and work both independently and interdependently. The curriculum and instruction are designed to challenge and provide opportunities for pursuing different interests and goals. The knowledge base of students is expanded through research and application, connected to previous knowledge and personal experience.

There are two options for the students in the American International College doctoral program: Leadership and Supervision or Teaching and Learning.

The doctoral students enter with diverse career goals and backgrounds. Some of them choose the Leadership

and Supervision track and are planning to move into leadership and supervisory positions while others choose the Teaching and Learning option and will continue to teach at different levels – including higher education as well as the private sector both nationally and internationally. Some students just want to increase their own knowledge to better perform in their current positions.

AIC is preparing leaders and teachers who will have an impact on the quality of education for our children and youth as it has since 1885, having established a strong reputation for teacher and administrative preparation. Having served as a school superintendent for more than 30 years, I know the importance of advanced professional preparation.

I encourage bright and committed people from within and outside education, who want to be of service and who want to make a difference that can improve individual lives through education both in the United States and abroad, to learn more about the program.

Richard Holzman is the dean for special academic projects at American International College. Contact the college's graduate admissions office at (413) 205-3700 or online at www.aic.edu



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