



EDUCATION DEANS OF GREATER MILWAUKEE



Dr. Bill Henk has served as dean of the College of Education and professor of literacy at Marquette University since 2004. Previously he chaired the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and for 18 years prior to that role, he worked in an array of faculty and administrative capacities in the Penn State University system.

Henk, who holds degrees in secondary education as well as reading and educational psychology, specializes in literacy and has earned a national reputation for his scholarship in that field. He has published and presented his work extensively, has served on several elite editorial review boards, and has held multiple leadership roles in professional organizations.

Bill served as an elementary school reading specialist in Corry (PA), before going on to receive his doctorate from West Virginia University in 1982. He then served as an assistant professor of reading education and director of the reading clinic at the University of Georgia.

The *Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers* recognized Bill with a distinguished service award in 2003 and with a prestigious lifetime achievement award in 2004. At Penn State he received institutional awards for both teaching and research, and he was named an outstanding alumnus of Edinboro University (PA) in 2000.

As a dean at Marquette, Dr. Henk has successfully led efforts for national accreditation and the re-designation of his academic unit as the College of Education. In addition, he co-founded the nationally-recognized *Greater Milwaukee Catholic Education Consortium (GMCEC)*, helped to establish *Teach For America* in Milwaukee, and directed the feasibility study for the new Cristo Rey Jesuit high school. His university service on governance bodies, task forces and committees has been wide-ranging. He is also active in numerous community service and outreach activities including membership on the Leadership Council of *Milwaukee Succeeds*, the *Greater Milwaukee Committee Education Committee*, the Catholic School Commission, and the boards of the GMCEC, Cristo Rey Jesuit and Catholic Memorial high schools.

Bill sees his role as a co-chair of the *Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee* as a way to utilize his leadership skills for the greater good of Milwaukee's school children. He regards the EDGM as uniquely positioned to exert a significant impact on the region's educational landscape through collaboration and collective social impact.



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Dr. Freda Russell is the Dean of the College of Education and Leadership at Cardinal Stritch University, and Co-Chair of the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee (EDGM) group, whose members consist of School of Education deans from nine institutions in Southeastern Wisconsin.

As the first African-American dean in the university's 79-year history, Dr. Russell leads advanced and innovative practices in higher education that serve the twenty-first century learner and empower the local community. Her research is concentrated in the areas of program evaluation, teacher education policy, higher education accreditation, culturally responsive practices in higher education and the development of women leaders. As a strategic visionary, and critical thinker, she energizes communities around adaptive change and shared vision. She also advocates at the state and national level for high-quality and high-impact teacher education programs that align with the needs of the PK-12 academic programming.

Most often in magazine articles, Dr. Russell is characterized as a pioneer, being one of the first African-American women to serve successfully in key leadership roles. However, she would best summarize her resilience and "never-give-up-belief" with this quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which states, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Dr. Russell has spent her professional career in health care and higher education, working in positions of increasing administrative responsibility. She co-chaired development of the university's Self-Study Report for the Higher Learning Commission in addition to leading the College of Education and Leadership through a successful re-accreditation by state and national organizations. In 2015, she served Cardinal Stritch University as Co-Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. She continues to add to her accomplished record success stories of fundraising, strategic partnership development and ongoing support of new programmatic growth.

Dr. Russell attributes much of her success to being raised on military bases and having to consistently adjust to different cultures and life circumstances. This led her to an understanding of her own life mission, which is, "to advocate for equity in human life and personal development."



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Dr. David Brightsman serves as Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Associate Professor of Education at Wisconsin Lutheran College. He joined the faculty of WLC in 2002 and assumed the role of Dean in 2010.

Dr. Brightsman holds degrees in music, curriculum and instruction, and urban education, specializing in young adolescent learning and literacy. He has presented extensively on middle school best practice and literacy, as well as embedding conversations of vocation throughout the curriculum.

Dr. Brightsman served as a middle school music teacher and literacy specialist for 16 years, ten of those in Milwaukee Public Schools, before earning his doctorate in Urban Education from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He then began teaching as an adjunct faculty member at Wisconsin Lutheran College as their middle school specialist. In 2002, Dr. Brightsman joined the full-time faculty of WLC.

The College of Professional Studies consists of the School of Business, the School of Professional Communication, the School of Nursing, and the School of Teacher Education. As dean, Dr. Brightsman has the responsibility for administrative oversight, resource allocation and management including fiscal/budgetary issues and workload, the delivery of instructional programs, scholarly activity and service, advancement and fundraising, and liaison with the senior administration and the community at large.

EDGM provides an opportunity for all higher education institutions in the Greater Milwaukee area to come together and focus on meeting the needs of our children. The organization strengthens our voice and allows us to leverage our assets in ways we could not do as separate institutions. It serves as an example of how distinctly different institutions can come together to address critical needs facing our region, needs that can only be resolved through collaboration and commitment.



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Dr. Debra Dosemagen is currently the Director of the Graduate Program in Education and Education Department Chair at Mount Mary University where she works with students pursuing teacher certification and graduate students earning a masters' degree. She earned her Bachelor's degree in mathematics, psychology and secondary education from Alverno College, a Master of Arts in Education degree from Mount Mary University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Leadership with an emphasis in instructional leadership from Marquette University.

Prior to her work at Mount Mary, Deb taught mathematics for 23 years at Pius XI High School, where she also served as Director of Instruction. In 2000, Deb was certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in the area of Adolescent and Young Adulthood Mathematics and has actively participated on the state and national level in National Board programs, particularly those to support candidates. Deb has a commitment to effective instruction – particularly in mathematics education – at all academic levels and is frequently involved in professional development experiences for classroom teachers.

During her tenure at Mount Mary University, Dr. Dosemagen has served on a variety of campus-wide committees and initiatives including as Chair of the Faculty Assembly, Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and a member of the Creative Campus Task Force. She currently acts as a facilitator for campus-based Design Thinking Workshops which offer professional development and community building opportunities to Mount Mary faculty, staff, and administrators. She was honored by Mount Mary University as the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award and the Heritage Award.

Deb currently serves on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's *Professional Standards Council*, *The Burke Foundation Board*, the Board of Directors of *Notre Dame Schools of Milwaukee*, and the Board of the *Greater Milwaukee Catholic Education Consortium (GMCEC)*.

EDGM offers us the opportunity to work with colleagues across teacher education programs, educational sectors, school districts, and individual schools to impact educational outcomes in the Greater Milwaukee area.



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Sadique Isahaku (pronounced: esa-haku), PhD

Dr. Isahaku received his early education in Ghana and Nigeria. He graduated from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria-Nigeria with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Business Economics. After the mandatory National Service, he worked in the Oil Industry as Financial Accountant for two years. He was granted a scholarship to continue his education in Norway where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Master of Philosophy in Economic Planning and

Community Development at the University of Tromsø and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Pedagogy and Education Policy at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

On graduation, he taught at both universities for a total of eight years. In 1998 he accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Education at Beloit College, Wisconsin where he taught for another eight years. He then moved to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections as Coordinator of Education programs, overseeing Career and Technical Education programs in all the Division of Adult Institution facilities across the state. At the Department of Corrections, he pioneered several education development initiatives. Dr. Isahaku also worked as a consultant on educational development in various capacities for several years with United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). He is currently Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the Milwaukee Area Technical College. Dr. Isahaku is widely traveled.

Sadique is a member of many professional organizations; he sees his role in EDGM as one that will help promote the quality of the teaching and raise the professionalism of teachers in Milwaukee.



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Dr. Patricia Luebke serves as the Interim Dean of the School of Education, drawing upon her long tenure in K-12 public education and five years as a faculty member at Alverno College. Prior to joining the School of Education at Alverno she served as a teacher, special education supervisor, building administrator and Director of Special Education and Pupil Services in the MPS and the Wauwatosa School District. She is active locally and at the state level in work with K-12 schools in the areas of special education and school leadership, most recently serving as a representative of Institutions of Higher Education on the State Superintendent's Special Education Advisory Council. At Alverno, she also serves as the program director of the Special Education Teacher Preparation program. Current interests include systemic examination and revision of the way in which colleges prepare initial licensure teacher candidates to meet the challenges of today's classrooms across educational sectors and the ongoing enhancement of graduate level instruction designed to address the needs of teacher candidates serving on emergency licenses in high needs areas. Dr. Luebke received her bachelor's degree in secondary English and master's degree in special education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She holds a PhD in Urban Education with an emphasis on administrative leadership, also from UW-Milwaukee.

Participation in the EDGM provides a forum for education deans to collaborate with community partners to develop and implement effective ways to serve our students, and by extension, students in the K-12 education systems across the educational landscape of the Milwaukee area. Collaboration around issues critical to the preparation of teachers and school leaders in the Milwaukee area is critical to systemic improvement in the area, and EDGM provides a forum for all schools of education in the Milwaukee area to work together toward a common goal.



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Dr. Alan R. Shoho is the Dean of the School of Education and Professor of Administrative Leadership at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). He is leading the School of Education through a turbulent period of fiscal challenges including declining enrollments for five years, a structural deficit of \$1M/year, and a carry forward deficit of \$2.5M. Despite grappling with the budget challenges, the School of Education's fundraising efforts has increased significantly in the past year. Through his leadership, he secured a \$2.5M Endowed Chair position as well as scholarship funds in excess of \$650K in his first year on the job. He serves on numerous community and outreach service activities including membership on the Leadership and Operations team of Milwaukee Succeeds, the Greater Milwaukee Committee Education Committee, Bradley Tech Commission, Milwaukee Public School High School Redesign Strategic Initiative, Public Policy Forum Education committee and the boards of Next Door Foundation and Central City Cyber School.

Dr. Shoho views his involvement with the *Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee* as a critical way for the Deans to work together to provide collective impact for the greater good of Greater Milwaukee's educational landscape. He believes that EDGM is a unique opportunity unlike any in the country where leaders from the education schools are working together to rally around a common interest to improve the systems and perceptions surrounding education.

Prior to UWM, he was at the University of Texas at San Antonio where he was a Professor and Associate Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Support for 21 years. He was an American Council of Education (ACE) Fellow during 2012/2013 academic year at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. His research focuses on aspiring principals and assistant principals, high school social processes, and organizational cultures. In 2010, he served as the President for the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA), the premier scholarly organization for educational leadership. He serves on a number of editorial boards including the Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership and the Journal of Educational Administration among others. Dr. Shoho earned his Ed.D. at Arizona State University, M.Ed. at the University of Hawaii, and his B.S.E.E. in Electrical Engineering at California State University at Fullerton. Before becoming an educator, Dr. Shoho worked for Rockwell International as a digital hardware design engineer, where he helped design nuclear missile guidance systems. He subsequently taught mathematics and electronics prior to becoming a professor of educational leadership. As a professor of educational leadership, he helped prepare the next generation of school leaders in San Antonio, Texas.



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Dr. Michael Uden has served as the Dean of the School of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin since 2008 and has been a member of Concordia's faculty since 1998. Before that time, he had extensive experience as a middle-level educator in public and parochial K-12 education.

Michael Uden holds degrees in elementary education, curriculum design and instruction, and educational leadership and policy analysis. His research focus areas include literacy, teacher career trajectory, instruction strategies, and trauma-sensitive education; and Dr. Uden has produced recognized scholarship in these areas. In 1998 he was awarded the Herb Kohl Fellowship for outstanding contributions toward K-12 education.

In his role as the Dean of Education, Dr. Uden has overseen unprecedented growth in enrollment and programs including the merger with Concordia University in Ann Arbor, MI, and he now serves as university dean for both the Wisconsin and Michigan campuses. For instance, under his leadership, Concordia's School of Education has launched the *Closing the Achievement Gap Consortium*, comprised of 18 public and parochial school district partners dedicated to eliminating student disparity in academic achievement.

Dr. Uden is eager to be part of the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee (EDGM), as the collaboration and collective impact of the group has the power to transform the educational landscape of southeastern Wisconsin more quickly and completely and improve the education of all children. Moreover, the priorities of EDGM, including literacy and STEAM, represent key areas of twenty-first century education.



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Dr. Kimberly White is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Education at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Dr. White teaches in both undergraduate and graduate programs at Carroll. She facilitates courses in foundations of education, research in education, and elementary mathematics methods. Since joining the Department of Education in 2009, she and her colleagues have restructured undergraduate programs in Elementary Education and Secondary Education, and the graduate program in Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. White appreciates her work at Carroll University for the opportunities she has to build relationships with pre-service and in-service educators, the collegiality of the faculty in her department, and the support the university offers to be responsive to the evolving needs and context in education.

Dr. White has over 20 years of experience in the broader field of education. She has taught in various grade levels (K-8) in public school classrooms in both urban and suburban districts. She has held various roles as an educator across three different states, in elementary schools, middle schools, and institutes of higher education. She appreciates her ongoing work with adult learners, all with the focus of improving teaching and learning for students in K-21 educational environments.

Dr. White holds a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin and attended the Ohio State University for her BSBA in Business Marketing and her M.Ed. in Elementary Education. Her primary areas of research include teacher identity, teacher learning, and religion and education. The main body of her research examines how pre-service and in-service teachers' religious orientations impact their teacher learning and practice. Additional research interests include equity, multicultural education, and mathematics education.

Dr. White has been a member of the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee since 2012. She values the collaborative efforts of the deans and directors across the nine institutions in Southeast Wisconsin. The organization is committed to working with school and district partners and community organizations to enhance education for all students and educators in the area. The group has the capacity to serve as a collective voice to advocate for the profession of education.



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Karen J. Coy-Romano has served as the Manager of the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee (EDGM) since February 2015 through a project grant from the Faye McBeath Foundation.

Coy-Romano holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in education with an emphasis on social advocacy, leadership development, academic research, urban education policy and antiracist education. In addition, she is a nationally certified fundraising and communications executive and leadership coach. Prior to retiring from the state educational system, Coy-Romano held administrative leadership positions in health and human services for 20 years and higher education for 26 years. For the last 13 years, she has been an entrepreneur serving as president of a consulting firm specializing in transformational leadership and change management in urban education programs serving high-poverty communities.

As one of the founding members of the charter and school movement 26 years ago, Coy-Romano has worked extensively with Milwaukee Public Schools previously serving on the MPS Task Force on Special Education and Supportive Services for 10 years and as a partner with the former MPS Alternative School Program. She has conducted long-term qualitative and quantitative academic research on the variables contributing to underperforming public schools, integrating socio-emotional learning with academic curriculum, and has monitored and evaluated school leadership and classroom management strategies for public, charter and choice schools. Her 1993 launch of a voucher school program with former MPS students from grades 3 through 8, academically behind 3 to 4 years, and who had been suspended or expelled resulted in academic gains up to grade level in one school year by utilizing specific learning and classroom management skills of Master level educators.

Her responsibilities have included legislative advocacy and drafting and proposing new legislation to benefit urban education programs. Coy-Romano's commitment to social justice and civil rights issues throughout her career has allowed her to contribute her expertise to early childhood education programs, advancing national education/remediation models in local communities including growing 'out-of-school time' programs, student retention and graduation initiatives, and the integration of public health programs that serve vulnerable children and build healthy communities. Throughout her career, Karen has launched the development of public/private partnerships among key stakeholders to maximize collective impact for the benefit of disadvantaged students and to create access and equity.

Karen values her role with the Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee and our community partners as a catalyst to facilitate and leverage the unique cross-sector expertise in urban education from cradle to career to drive systemic change that serves the needs of all children regardless of community or socio-economic status.