

## **School of Education Has Experienced Huge Growth Under Leadership of Dr. Lisa Allen**

**When Lisa Allen came to Campbellsville University in 2011, she was thrilled to have the opportunity to teach at the college-level and settle into the next stage of her career. Before being hired in the Special Education program at CU, she spent 23 years as a teacher and school counselor at Nelson County High School (Kentucky).**

**Little did Dr. Allen know that she would be the Dean of the School of Education at CU by 2018. And under her watch, the school has grown significantly—with over 900 students currently enrolled in 27 undergraduate, graduate, certification and endorsement programs. Dr. Allen and her staff oversee and facilitate online and face-to-face learning throughout Kentucky, as well as in several other states and countries. Allen has been a catalyst for continued and healthy growth.**

**And at the end of this Fall term, 2023, she is stepping down to spend more time with her family and new granddaughter (due in February). Allen's retirement will be felt by the entire university community, as she not only guides the vision and daily work of the School of Education, but serves in a leadership capacity across the CU campus.**

**But, her vision will continue to reap fruit for CU. Allen has been a huge advocate for the launching of a doctoral program out of the School of Education, and spearheaded the process over the past four years. This Fall, the program has been approved by the university graduate committee to move forward, and with the course of study already developed, it should be ready to roll out within the next two years (or less).**

**With Allen's strong background in school counseling, she also previously designed CU's school counselor preparation program. She envisioned and developed a quality comprehensive model aligned to national standards. This Fall semester, 2023, enrollment in CU's Master of Arts in Education in School Counseling program was at 171 students. Of those, 48 are Option 6 school counselors (these are candidates who are currently completing the degree program while serving as a counselor in a school). Also, an additional 14 candidates are earning their Rank 1 in School Counseling certification.**

**"Dr. Allen has allowed her team to be innovative, and that makes all the difference," said Dr. Chuck Hamilton, a veteran professor in the graduate education leadership program, and on the ground floor with much of the school's growth.**

**Beyond enrollment and partnership growth, Allen's modeling of her strong faith has had significant impact. She begins every faculty meeting with an invitation for prayer requests followed by prayer, and has encouraged all staff to put their faith into social action. "She has been at the forefront in enriching the landscape in our school and across campus in the domain of diversity-rich hiring, and teaching," added Dr. Jeffrey Herron, Associate Professor / Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator.**

**Dr. Allen’s three chairs share special gratitude for the opportunities afforded them under her tutorage.**

**Dr. Sharon Hundley, Chair, Early Childhood: “Our ECLC international presence is amazing, and a lot of that credit goes to Dr. Allen’s commitment to make sure we succeeded with these long distance partnerships. She accompanied us on one of our first Belize learning abroad service projects. She has created an environment where students and faculty can participate in global work and yearly opportunities to learn about different cultures and education practices around the world.”**

**Dr. Robin Magruder, Chair, Undergraduate Studies, and named interim Dean beginning January, 2024: “We have a great ‘school of education’ here at Campbellsville. Our students find good teaching positions as soon as they graduate, and we get strong feedback from our school districts that they are well-trained and committed to being passionate teachers. Dr. Allen has set the bar high with how she prepares us for our accreditation visits, and that shows in the quality of instruction here, and the quality of faculty she has brought on board.”**

**Dr. Valerie Flanagan, Chair, Graduate Studies, agrees with her colleagues, and adds: “In her guidance as Dean, Dr. Allen has met the needs of educators by ensuring we offer the programs they seek. We will continue to see growth in many areas as a result of her leadership.”**

**Allen was also at the center of the development of CU’s ‘grow your own’ principal certification program, which walks alongside P-12 districts in collaborative partnership, and has been cutting edge—not just in Kentucky, but around the country. Allen was able to gain accreditation approval for this model in 2018, and since its inception, 10 cohorts have gone this route.**

**Dr. Franklin Thomas, another member of the school admin faculty team, added, “When she recruited me here in 2019, she saw down the road how fast-paced our growth would be, and honestly, we haven’t slowed down from Day 1. Dr. Allen has orchestrated all of this so well.”**

**Yes, Dr. Lisa Allen will be missed at Campbellsville University. But, as she mentions often in her faculty meetings and newsletters: “We are to be servant leaders.” And she has modeled this gold standard very well.**