Trio of experts—not just one—should lead schools, Judy Alston contends

At a time when public schools—particularly those in urban areas—are struggling to maintain public confidence, Judy Alston, educational administrator and supervisor of science vision, has written a book that proposes multi-leadership in K-12 schools.

Published by University Press of America Inc., Multi-leadership in Urban Schools: Shifting Paradigms for Administration and Supervision in the New Millennium, says three principals may sometimes be better than one.

Alston suggests in the book that a triumvirate of school leaders who collaborate with a common goal of improving their school may help to create an enhanced learning community in which students’ opportunities to excel are maximized.

“The bottom line is student achievement,” Alston said. The triumvirate could include a chief operating officer, a chief financial officer and a chief knowledge officer, all experts in their respective areas. Such a plan would re-conceptualize urban schools as we know them. Alston says in the book, noting that the new paradigm of leadership would promote teamwork, reduce the stress on a single principal and enhance student performance.

“Being a principal is often too much for one person. It’s a tough job,” she said. “This is not for every school, but for some schools it might be the answer.”

Noting the national shortage of teachers who are willing to step into an administrative role, even when they have the necessary license and certification, Alston said the overwhelming demands of a principalship can discourage prospective administrators from pursuing the role.

“Dividing the position might encourage people to do that,” she said, adding that even for the chief financial and chief operating officers, a background in education would be important. “The business of education is very different from running a company that produces a product,” the former high school English teacher cautioned.

Widely published in the field of school administration, Alston joined the BGSU faculty in 1999. She serves as both chair and graduate coordinator for the EDAS master’s degree program in the School of Leadership Studies, and teaches in the University’s doctoral program in leadership studies.

**PCA grants link BGSU with the community**

* --Garfield Heights--* - --Judy Alston*

Partnerships for Community Action (PCA) and the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education (CITE), in conjunction with the Office of the Provost, invites the campus to the fourth annual grant-launch open house and reception. Titled “Forging New Relationships,” the event will begin at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday (Feb. 12) in the Lorsch Grand Ballroom, Bowden-Thompson Student Union.

Altogether, PCA and CITE funded 12 projects for a total of $44,000. The 2003 projects and their BGSU and community partners are:

- “Action after Stroke: A Physical Activity Program to Improve Health and Wellness for Stroke-Recovering Individuals”—Geoffrey Mek, human movement, sport and leisure studies, and Patty Snyder, Wood County Hospital Rehabilitation Services.
- “Color Me Healthy”—Rebecca Pobocik, family and consumer sciences, and Holly Hoagland-Foht, Kohlen Foundation of Northwest Ohio.
- “ESL for Migrant Workers”—Sheri Wells-Jensen, TESL Program and English, and Beatrice Maya, Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC).
- “Giving a Voice to the Voiceless: The Wood County CASA/Friends of Wood County CASA Community Awareness Campaign”—Christine Seiler, marketing, and Carol Fox, Wood County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).
- “Sensitivty Training Awareness for Caregivers (STAC)—Janet Harst, gerontology, and Patricia J. Martin, Fisher-Titus Medical Center; Judy Fegan, Haren County Jobs and Family Services, and Bill Dotson, Gaymont Nursing Home.
- “Making Authors: Inspiring and Involving Children, Their Teachers and Families with an Author Visit”—John Zibbel, Early Childhood Education Program, Vicki Kaunserie and Cindi Baum, Child Development Center; Emily Virts, family and consumer sciences, and Marta Simon and Kathy East, Wood County District Public Library; Warren Fauer, Community Learning Centers of Wood County; Shelen Stevens, Wester Public Library, Priscilla Fieder, Weston Elementary School; Craig Blair, Weston Arts Council, and Laura Sams, Michigan State University’s Department of Agriculture and Extension Education.
- “Mentors at Work”—Judy Kiser, social work, and Marlene Ellis, Juvenile Court Programs, Ohio State University Extension.
- “Mingo Language Revitalization and Cultural Exchange Program”—Sheila Wells-Jensen, TESL Program and English, and Mike Adams, Mingo Nation United Remnant Band.
- “Symposium on Media Literacy in Education”—Donald McGuire, American culture studies and Bill Penton, TESL Program and English.
- “Targeted Tutorial Assistance Program”—Jay R. Stewart, educational foundations and inquiry, and Janet Murphy; East Toledo Junior High School.
- “Tangent Tutorial Assistance Program”—Jay R. Stewart and Jenni Tekabe, Rehabilitation Counseling Program, and Martin D. Perrett, Toledo School for the Arts.
Monday, Feb. 10
Diversity Celebration Lecture.
"Family Law: Shaping Lives," with Rob Salem, 1:30 p.m., 113 West Building, BGSU Falcons.

Tuesday, Feb. 11
Diversity Celebration Concert.
"Uta," a First Nations, all-women, a cappella trio, 12:30 p.m., Central Lounge, North Building, BGSU Falcons.

Guest Presentation. "Artic Crossing," Jon Waarmen, author and environmentalist, 7:30 p.m., 1018 Oslalt Hall. Sponsored by the Center for Environmental Programs.


Wednesday, Feb. 12
Symposium, "Higher Education and Multi-Generational Populations in the Midwest," facilitated by William Armaline, director, Center for Innovative and Transformative Education (CITE), 8:30-11:30 a.m., 201 Union. Sponsored by Partnerships for Community Action and CITE.


Concert, Utah, 6:30-7:45 p.m., Kocber Hall, MMAC.

UAO Movie. "The Barbarians," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Monday, Feb. 17

Tuesday, Feb. 17
Correction: NCA Web address is "www.bgsu.edu/offices/nca/selfstudy/"

Nominations are open to undergraduate students and will be accepted during the weeks of Feb. 17-March 21. See Monitor online for more information.


Graduate College. Associate Dean. Call Deb Smith, 2-0433. Deadline: Feb. 28.


Please contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8241 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Positions vacancy announcements may be viewed on the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/hr.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED. The following positions are advertised on and off campus.

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in brief

BGSU to host Presidents' Day visitors

High school students from Ohio and surrounding states will become part of the BGSU community for a day during the eighth annual Presidents' Day open house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17.

"The enthusiasm and spirit that are generated on this day are very important to us," said Kay Gudehus, admissions. "This is our future."

More than 2,000 prospective students came to BGSU last year for Presidents' Day. Counting family members and friends, the total rose to 6,600 visitors, according to Gary Swegan, director of admissions.

In order to handle all of this year's visitors, 140 campus volunteers will check students in and direct them around campus, give tours, help with departmental open houses and the lunch buffet, and accompany visitors on shuttle buses. The event also offers an opportunity for visitors to chat with faculty, staff and students about the University and have questions answered, Gudehus said.

"The importance of this day is that it allows prospective students to pick and choose what they want to see at will," said Swegan. Some events are tailored for high school juniors who are just beginning to look at colleges, while others are aimed at high school seniors who may be preparing to enroll at BGSU. Swegan said that residence hall tours and academic department open houses are frequently attended by prospective students. Presentations will also be given on the admissions process, financial aid, extracurricular activities and specialized academic programs.

Correction: NCA Web address

There was an error in the Web address given in last week's Monitor for the University's NCA re-accreditation self-study. The correct address is www.bgsu.edu/offices/nca/selfstudy/index.htm.

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Job postings

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Nonprofit Organization
P.O. Box 120
Bowling Green, Ohio
Permit No. 1