



# All Things Ignatian



## Interdisciplinary Ed.D. Program in Leadership Online Orientation to All Things Ignatian

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In January 2011, Creighton's Graduate School launched a new online Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program in Leadership. The mission of the Ed.D. program in Leadership is centered on developing leaders who use their skills to promote social justice, and societal and organizational change. Drawing on the Jesuit tradition of Creighton University, the program builds on a leadership model that encourages continual, critical self-reflection. With increasing self-knowledge, leaders are empowered to work mindfully toward a more just community, workplace, and world. The concept of leaders as stewards of an organization is emphasized during each course and promoted through practicum and research activities. Program faculty and students come from a variety of disciplines and professions and as such provide a rich interdisciplinary learning community for understanding the nature and role of interdisciplinary work in today's world. The collaborative learning community is shaped by the Jesuit ideals of academic excellence, respect for human dignity, and a faith that does justice. The vision for the program graduates is that they will possess skills to lead and will have internalized faith-based values that will guide their efforts at personal and organizational change.

EdD students must first complete an on-line or on-campus orientation (ILD 808): **Leadership Seminar 1: Program Orientation and Formulation of the Learning Community.** The 5 day orientation is designed to build a strong learning community among the new students, providing them an introduction to the Jesuit Values and Mission, and to the program, Creighton, faculty, and Omaha. To introduce the Jesuit charisms students read the Creighton mission and identity documents, Fr. David Flemming's "On Personal Care in Ignatian Spirituality," and they watch 3 videos from Fairfield University introducing the life of St. Ignatius. They also watch a short media summary and powerpoints on Creighton's mission, Ignatian Charisms, and Ignatian Pedagogy.



"What strikes me as extremely significant in the life of St. Ignatius is the moment or event that brought him to a point of conversion. As all of our resources indicate, it was during his 9month long recovery where Ignatius found divine enlightenment and renewed calling. I do not find it coincidence that revelation was found at the junction on brokenness and healing. Some of the most prolific leaders of history and modernity have experienced such critical points in their journeys and these critical points often drive us into deep reflection and contemplation. This realization then leads me to question whether or not revelation can come from "good" experiences to which I answer with an emphatic, yes. However, what I believe brokenness does is ignites the process of transformation. This is what Ignatius experiences. At this crossroads, Ignatius does not simply acknowledge the need for change, he experiences an absolute and irreversible conversion." (Monique Williams)

For their discussion, they choose among the following:

- Compare and contrast core Ignatian Values to your own personal values, your own faith tradition, including secular humanism. Which of these values do you most readily identify as "easy" to live out? Explain why you chose it and provide examples.
- Which of these values is most challenging or difficult for you to live?
- What is the most striking to you about Ignatius' life experiences? Consider your own professional experiences, can you relate your experiences to his?

50 new EdD students just completed (Jan 2 – 6, 2012) ILD 808. Here are their reflections:

"This assignment really opened my eyes to my own philosophies and values. I have come to discover that I am a true Jesuit at heart and in fact believe the very things that Ignatius taught without consciously knowing that it was a Jesuit value system. I have always believed that *God is in all things.*" (Melissa Stahley-Cummings)

"The value, "*Magis*" inspires me both personally and professionally to greater understanding and action. I was particularly struck by the individual from Boston College who commented that for some, "to be Catholic is to be static". Fr. Michael Himes diminished this notion by suggesting that our faith should be liberating and demanding, certainly not static. Living our Catholic faith requires us to model a radical and loving embrace of the world. To do this, requires us to more than just talk about the disparities in our world. It requires us to responsibly adjust our own habits to allow for greater equity with our neighbors and our world community. It also requires the often uncomfortable decision to detach ourselves from many things that make us comfortable. Living a Christ-centered life demands a "*magis*" perspective. This perspective must be more than just rhetoric, it should be accompanied by action motivated by excellence and love and not motivated by our ego or ambition." (Amy Novak)

"**Learning about the Jesuit tradition has helped me shift my focus from what I want to gain to who I want to become and how I can help shape the future of our community.**" (Mohammad Paknejad)

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.