

ROBERT F. NICELY, JR. AND DONNA C. NICELY DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR IN EDUCATION LECTURE

*“Examining Coaching-Focused Educational
Leadership Learning Designs: Implications For
Practice And Policy”*

Shelby Cosner Ph.D.

**Professor and Director of UIC's Center for Urban Education
Leadership Educational Policy Studies
at University of Illinois, Chicago**

Friday, February 17th, 2023

11:00 a.m.

236 Chambers Building

Lunch will be provided in 228 Chambers.

Please RSVP by February 15th.

Link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RY30fNs9iUOpwcEVUm61Ls1B6Cdm71JGh4VShpk6WPNUMjFETUFOSTVQMUZUQIRLVzdZWEI2RzFJSC4u>

Shelby Cosner is a Professor of Educational Organization and Leadership in the Department of Educational Policy Studies and the Director of the UIC Center for Urban Education Leadership (CUEL). In 2018, this center received national recognition by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for its expertise with continuous improvement. Beginning in 2019-2020 CUEL established a Research Practice Partnership with the Chicago Public Schools called C2. Cosner's research interests include school reform and improvement, the development of organizational capacities that support improvement, leadership for school improvement, leadership preparation/development/evaluation, and leadership preparation program continuous improvement. She has examined school leader development in a wide assortment of national contexts. She is actively engaged in researching and cultivating leader development programs and infrastructure in the Global South and Middle East.

Cosner is an applied qualitative researcher whose work draws heavily from the organizational sciences, sociology, social psychology, and management. Her work appears in such peer-reviewed journals as *Educational Administration Quarterly*, the *Journal of Educational Administration*, the *Journal of School Leadership*, *Leadership and Policy in Schools*, *Urban Education*, *Educational Management Administration & Leadership*, the *Journal of Research on Leadership Education*, and *Planning and Changing*. Working independently and with various colleagues, Cosner has obtained over 13M in external funding (e.g., National Science Foundation/NSF, US Department of Education, The Wallace Foundation, The McCormick Foundation, The Lyle Spencer Foundation, The Broad Foundation, The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, The Finnegan Family Foundation, Children's First Foundation, and the Qatar Foundation).

Cosner is an expert on the preparation and development of educational leaders and on the continuous improvement and evaluation of preparation/development programs for educational leaders. Prior to becoming the Director of UICs Center for Urban Education Leadership, she served as the Academic Program Director and Associate Program Coordinator for UICs Doctorate in Urban Educational Leadership. In these roles, she co-led program redesign and implementation over a multi-year time frame using improvement science/inquiry cycles. This program is nationally recognized as a model principal preparation program, and it has received national awards and recognitions for its program quality including UCEAs 2013 award as an Exemplary Leadership Preparation Program (one of two programs nationally to receive this designation in its inaugural year; only 7 such programs have been identified to date) and the 2012 Urban Impact Award from the Council of Great City Schools. Through 4-year funding from The Wallace Foundation as a part of their \$48M UPPI project, she led UICs efforts to support two universities (University of Connecticut and Western Kentucky University) as these institutions engage in work to improve their principal preparation programs. In 2021, The Wallace Foundation again selected Cosner to lead UIC's team in its work to mentor two universities (University of Texas-Austin, and Portland State) as a part of the foundation's 5-year \$102M ECPI project. She also evaluates principal preparation and development programs for state departments of education and for universities.

Cosner has particular expertise related to educational leader learning designs--both in person and remote--as well as with leadership coaching. She is regularly sought to design curriculum materials for the development of school and system leaders and for the leadership coaches who support school leader development. In this work, she has served as a curriculum developer and trainer of trainers for research/development centers, state departments of education, regional educational offices, state superintendent/principal associations, and national Ministries of Education. Most recently she has worked with Qatar's Ministry of Education to design and provide a year-long hybrid leadership team development experience for school leadership teams in Qatar. In the state of IL, she is currently leading the design of a multi-year, 16M federally funded principal development program for the Center for the Study of Education Policy. In the state of Wisconsin, she supported the design and pilot implementation of Wisconsin's state-wide principal evaluation system. She also consults with school districts throughout the US to provide development for school boards, senior/district-level leadership teams, senior leaders, school leadership teams, principals, and teacher leaders. Her work in these areas often focuses on leading cycles of inquiry and data use to inform organizational improvement and diagnosing/cultivating organizational resources that support improvement—such as teacher and leadership teams.

Cosner has received multiple awards for her teaching including UICs Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award in 2009 and UICs most prestigious career achievement in teaching award, the Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2016. In 2018, Cosner received national recognition by UCEA when she was selected for the organization's Master Professor Award. Cosner is a former principal and district-level leader.