



West Texas A&M University Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

EC – 12 Leadership | Higher Education Leadership | Business & Finance Leadership

Emphasizing Educational Leadership in Rural Settings

2026 Summer Immersion Experience

Friday, July 17, 2026

***WTAMU Happy State Bank Academic & Research Building
Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences (PECANS), Canyon, Texas***

8:00-8:30 a.m. PECANS Foyer
Continental Breakfast
Business Casual Dress

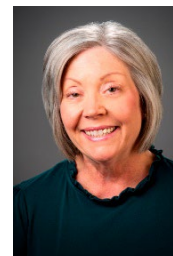
8:30-8:45 PECANS Room 101
Welcome!

Dr. Gary Bigham, Professor of Education
Dean, WTAMU Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences
TAMU System Regents Professor of Education



8:45-9:00 PECANS Room 101
Greetings! Introduction of Faculty, Staff & Distinguished Guests

Dr. Betty Coneway, Professor of Education
Head, WTAMU Department of Education
Dr. Geneva Schaeffer Professor of Education and Social Sciences



Morning **Overview: From Academic Mastery to Professional Authority**
Speakers will address the transition of Ed.D. candidates from the classroom to effective executive leadership roles through developing compelling leadership stories, leveraging professional identities and executive presence, strengthening emotional competencies, and navigating the complex gatekeeping of executive recruitment.

9:00-10:00 PECANS Room 101
Find Your Stride!

Dr. Justin Richardson
Justin Richardson is an educator, author, and keynote speaker with *Waymaker Leadership Development*, where he supports teachers, school administrators, municipalities, and business leaders across Texas and beyond. With a passion for people, he helps leaders grow through professional learning and coaching. In 2021, he earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership at WTAMU, and his research on spiritual leadership practices has been featured in the *Journal of Ethical Educational Leadership*.



10:00-10:15
PECANS Foyer
Break

10:15-11:00
PECANS Room 101
Leading for Well-Being: Emotional Intelligence, Emotional Labor, and Support

Dr. Mustafa Toprak, WTAMU Associate Professor of Educational Leadership (9/1/2026)
Dr. Toprak brings over 20 years of experience as an educator, researcher, and educational leader across EC–12 and higher education settings. Prior to joining WTAMU, he served as Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership at Sharjah Education Academy in the United Arab Emirates, where he led the design, development, and accreditation of graduate programs focused on preparing educational leaders. His scholarship focuses on school leadership, educator well-being, organizational behaviour educational policy, and leadership for inclusion.



11:00-11:15
PECANS Foyer
Break

11:15-12:00
PECANS Room 101
Strategize Your Success: A Roadmap to Post-Grad Leadership

Ms. Kelby Dodson, The OccuNet Company, Director of People Operations
Kelby Dodson holds both a B.A. and M.A. in Human Resources Management and Services from Tarleton State University. She has built a career in Human Resources with experience spanning talent strategy, employee relations, organizational leadership, and enterprise system implementations, including platforms such as Workday. Kelby's professional background centers on aligning people, processes, and technology to drive operational effectiveness and support long-term organizational growth.



12:00-1:30 p.m. **Lunch** – Piehl-Schaeffer Pavilion - Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences

12:30-1:15 ***A Seat at the Table: Mastering Executive Presence***

Dr. Eddie W. Henderson, Myrna Raffkind Professor of Global Education
Dr. Henderson was a special education teacher and an educational diagnostician, a Regional Senior Executive of the Bank of America Private Bank in Texas, a university Department Head and Dean for 23 years. He has served on over 30 non-profit boards of directors--the majority in leadership roles. He is a licensed attorney who represented school districts and universities; he currently serves as co-director of the WTAMU Ed.D. Program.

Afternoon ***Overview: Cohort Convenings***
In addition to organized learning experiences, time on campus allows for collaborative interactions between and among candidates and cohorts. The afternoon is planned and organized to provide you with maximum opportunities to learn and engage in meaningful interactions with your peers – in “Open Forum” sessions, faculty members will limit their role to facilitating conversations among cohort members.

1:30-2:30
PECANS Room 102
Cohorts 1-5
Open Forum
Facilitator: Drs. Hindman

1:30-2:30
PECANS Room 101
Cohort 6 & 7
Open Forum
Facilitator: Drs. Henderson

1:30-2:30	PECANS Room 104 Cohort 8 Open Forum Facilitator: Drs. Harper
2:30-2:45	PECANS Foyer Break
Afternoon	Overview: Faculty Panel The afternoon is planned and organized to provide you with maximum opportunities to engage in meaningful interactions with your faculty members. Please submit your questions for the faculty to ehenderson@wtamu.edu before 1:00 p.m.
2:15-3:15	PECANS Room 101 Faculty Panel – Conversations with the Faculty Drs. Harper, Henderson, Hindman, Hooper, Peeples, Johnson & Garrison
3:15-3:45	PECANS Room 101 Reminders and Updates from Graduate School Ms. Heather Wilson
3:45-4:30	PECANS Foyer Order Academic Regalia & Group Photos
Dinner	On Your Own! Enjoy Free Time with Your Peers!

Saturday, July 18, 2026

WTAMU Happy State Bank Academic & Research Building
Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences (PECANS), Canyon, Texas

8:00-8:30	PECANS Foyer Continental Breakfast <i>Business Casual Dress</i>
8:30-9:00	PECANS Room 101 Welcome Terry B. Rogers and Dyke Rogers

“Dyke and Terry Rogers engaged their passion for education by naming the foundational College at WT, the College of Education and Social Sciences. Dyke and Terry have changed the course of WT’s history,” said WTAMU President Walter V. Wendler.



Terry B. Rogers taught at Windsor, Ridgecrest and Puckett elementary schools in Amarillo, then served as principal of Coronado Elementary School before retiring in 1998. Dyke Rogers is managing partner in Frontier Fuel Co. and is involved in real estate development and brokerage, technology, and artificial intelligence companies, physical security companies, farm operations in Texas and Louisiana, among other interests. The couple served as co-chairs for WT’s One West comprehensive fundraising campaign. Dyke Rogers was named a distinguished alumnus of WT in 2019. The couple won the WT Pinnacle Award in 2014 and the Family Philanthropic Spirit Award in 2015 from the Association of Fundraising Professionals—Texas Plains Chapter.

- 9:00–10:00 PECANS Room 101
EC-12 Leadership Panel Q&A – Moderator – Dr. Henderson
- Panelists**
Dr. Gary Bigham, WTAMU Dean Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences
Dr. Gilbert Trevino, Superintendent, Floydada Collegiate ISD
Dr. Tanya Monroe, Interim Superintendent Groom ISD
Mr. Troy Seagler, Associate Executive Director, Region 16 ESC
Ms. Jennifer Wilkerson, Amarillo ISD Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- 9:00–10:00 PECANS Room 102
Higher Education Leadership Panel Q&A – Moderator – Dr. Hindman
- Panelists**
Mr. Jud Hicks, Past President of Frank Phillips College
Dr. Neil Terry, WTAMU Provost and Executive Vice President
Ms. Denese Skinner, Amarillo College - Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
Dr. Angela Spaulding, WTAMU Vice President for Research and Compliance, Dean of Graduate School
Dr. Todd Rasberry, WTAMU Vice President for Philanthropy and External Relations
- 10:00-10:15 PECANS Foyer
Break
- 10:15 – 11:15 PECANS Room 101
Candidate Focus Group
The candidate focus group will provide a forum for candidates to share feedback including suggestions and success stories to refine curriculum, improve mentorship, and strengthen support for the professional growth of candidates and foster a culture of continuous improvement.
- Facilitator – Dr. Beth Garcia**, Sylvia Nugent Professor of Education
- 11:15 – 11:30 PECANS Room 101
Closing Remarks
Dr. Gary Bigham



Exper

Following the conclusion of the **2026 Immersion Experience**, please complete the conference evaluation at
https://wtamuuw.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_efXeRh1rbd1Plc