

ECU DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD DOCTORAL CATEGORY

Dr. Travis Lewis

Department of Educational Leadership
College of Education



Dr. Lewis is an assistant professor in the Department of Education Leadership program where he serves as the EdD program director. Dr. Travis Lewis earned his doctorate in education with a specialization in educational leadership from East Carolina University. His research focuses on the influence of school leadership practices on K-12 teacher recruitment and retention. His background in both counseling and in school leadership provides the students with a safe and generative space to design and cultivate the action-orientated projects that make contributions to their school districts as well as help them achieve their professional goals.

Dr. Lewis is recognized for his commitment to providing doctoral students with “affirming, supportive, informative, efficient, and empathetic” interactions as they complete their program successfully. One student wrote that Dr. Lewis “praises the hard work of his students. He acknowledges real life challenges and balances empathy with goal completion.” The faculty who nominated Dr. Lewis wrote that his advocacy for students “is grounded in equity and social justice,” and he ensures that students are “challenged academically and professionally...by offering supportive direction, evaluation, guidance, and feedback.” Dr. Lewis consistently puts his students first and does all he can to maintain the high caliber doctoral program in education at ECU.

ECU DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD MASTER'S CATEGORY

Dr. Keith Richards

School of Communication

College of Fine Arts and Communication



Dr. Keith Richards is Graduate Program Director and Associate Professor in the School of Communication, in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. He obtained his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Connecticut. As a leader of graduate education in the School of Communication, Dr. Richards has created materials and developed supportive practices for a large MA program with a wide variety of students and professionals. He is committed to developing both the academic and professional capacity of students that leads to their success.

Dr. Richards is recognized for his multidimensional mentoring style and commitment to mentoring students from early conversations during recruitment throughout the program phases, and beyond. One student nominator wrote that Dr. Richards “works tirelessly to enhance the graduate student experience” through his “guidance and advice on achieving academic success, career success, and overall growth.” One faculty nominator noted that “some of his deepest contributions to mentorship come from actively listening to student’s interests and needs and then working proactively to make sure those needs are met.” Dr. Richards works to foster a culture where a large and diverse group of graduate students feel welcomed and supported.