

Notre Dame College Principal Licensure Program Offers Ohio Teachers New Opportunities

Notre Dame College's Principal Licensure program prides itself on opening doors for talented and driven educators to take the next step in their professional careers. Educators who take part in this program are not only prepared to become licensed administrators in their schools and districts, but they also receive a high-caliber liberal arts education centered on fostering personal, professional and global responsibility. The program is offered as an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership or as a licensure-only program both on campus and online.

Donald Bittala, a University of Cincinnati and Xavier University graduate and experienced History teacher, is entering his final year of the program and already has found great value in the knowledge he has gained.

"The classes have been very useful and have provided a lot of great insight into the world of administration that a teacher does not typically think about, much less experience. All of the classes have been taught by experts in the field who have years of experience in principal positions, either currently or in the past."

After earning his Master's and teaching credentials from Xavier University in 2016, Bittala began his career as a Social Studies teacher in Northeast Ohio. Over the last three years he has taught sixth grade through high school and found immense joy in the classroom, but feels the time is right to step into a leadership role and affect positive changes school- and district-wide. Not only is Bittala stepping into an administrative role this year, he's also taking what he has learned at NDC and hoping to apply it to a seat on the Fairview Park City Schools Board of Education, for which he has just announced his candidacy.



The eight-class Principal Licensure program features six classes designed to prepare current teachers to more fully understand the day-to-day responsibilities and body of knowledge they will be expected to carry out once they step into an administrative role. These classes cover school management, personnel supervision, finance, law, politics, policies, assessment and more. While there is a vast deal of content to be learned, the program's faculty is dedicated to ensuring students feel supported and confident as they progress through the program. "I have yet to come across a professor who hasn't gone out of their way to help me as a student, and a teacher, and to also help answer the questions of a curious future administrator," Bittala explained.

Bittala's second and final year in the program starts this month; he'll be doing a full year of internships, but not simply as a teacher observing and learning from administrators in the field.

"Because of this program and what I have learned in it, I have been given the amazing opportunity to be an assistant principal in my school district a whole year before I would have been certified to be in the position. Based on the knowledge I have learned and the relationships I have built at NDC, I have been able to earn this opportunity for growth and to get a jump start on my intended career path," Bittala excitedly shared with NDC. The internships that all educators in the Principal Licensure program enter put them in the field for 250 hours over the course of the year and give them the ability to actively engage with school administration at the district- and school-levels.

Through comprehensive study in a variety of topics related to school administration and immersive experiences in the field, Notre Dame College is proud to educate the next generation of school administrators in Ohio.

Any currently licensed educators interested in learning more about Notre Dame College's Principal Licensure program or M.Ed. in Educational Leadership should contact our Enrollment Counselors at (888) 568-7361 or online@ndc.edu or the Assistant Director of Admissions, Crystal Johnson, at (216) 373-6386 or chowitt@ndc.edu.