

Nicholas Brake, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Education Leadership and Policy

The University of Louisville, College of Education and Human Development, 2003

Dissertation: *Predictors of student success in dual credit programs*

Master of Arts, History

Western Kentucky University, Potter College of Arts and Letters, 1997

Bachelor of Arts, History, Secondary Education; Minors: Political Science, Journalism

Northern Kentucky University, College of Arts and Sciences, 1991

POST DOCTORAL ACADEMIC STUDY

Education Policy Studies

Johns Hopkins University, School of Education, 2018

Leadership Institute for Superintendents

Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, 2014

Certificate in Community Development and Urban Planning

Rutgers University, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Western Kentucky University, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Executive-in-Residence, Director- Doctoral Program in Educational and Organizational Leadership

Provide administrative leadership of the university's doctoral program in educational and organizational leadership. Serve as graduate and doctoral-level faculty member, teaching courses in education policy and public leadership.

Owensboro Independent School District

Superintendent, 2013- 2019

The 19th superintendent of the largest independent district in Kentucky, which enrolls 5,300 students in preschool through 12th grade at 12 school sites employing a staff of 950 and an annual budget of \$60 million in an urban-small town setting. Report directly to a five-person publicly elected board of education. Accomplishments include the following:

- A Kentucky District of Innovation, named by AASA one of the 25 most innovative school districts in the US. The Owensboro Innovation Academy opened as a grade 9-12 School of Innovation in 2015 as the first New Tech Network affiliate in Kentucky. A civic engagement-based grade 6-8 innovation model and arts integration elementary model will open in 2019 creating a "split screen" innovation sector in the district.
- Recognized by the Kennedy Center with the Award for the Performing Arts placing the district among the elite arts programs in the United States.

- A district-wide literacy program was implemented focusing on K-12 literacy initiatives. District elementary reading scores rose by 20 percent and middle school improved by 25 percent on the state assessment. OISD was named a national “District of Distinction” for the Owensboro Reads partnership with the public library and area banks.

**Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation
President/CEO, 2006-2013**

CEO of a non-profit regional development agency in a labor market region of 400,000, provided the strategy and implementation framework to transform a stagnant region with a declining manufacturing base into a region alive with new development and recognized for progress in the area of innovation, technology-based economic activity, and placemaking, reported to a 35-member board of directors that included Mayor, County Executive, and CEOs of the region’s largest employers.

**Owensboro Community and Technical College
Dean/ Vice President 2002- 2006**

Served as chief officer for all institutional research and effectiveness for the college; co-directed all strategic planning activities, supervised 45 faculty members. Reported directly to the college president, served on the President’s Leadership Team, Chief Administrative Officer of the college’s Downtown and Southeastern campuses. Served as administrator for all 1,100 high school students enrolled at the college.

Daviess County Public Schools

Director of Curriculum, Research, and Assessment, 1998-2002

Served as District Assessment Coordinator, consultant to instructional directors, conducted educational research relating to increasing student achievement, and served as the district curriculum development director for the 12,000-student district. Duties included serving as the district’s representative for Kentucky’s accountability and assessment implementation and strategy.

Daviess County High School

Dean, Liberal Arts Academy, 1996-1998

Served as an instructional supervisor for 37 faculty members in the social studies, English and foreign language departments at this 1,600-student comprehensive high school

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Western Kentucky University, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Doctoral Program

Executive-in-Residence, Graduate and Doctoral Faculty Member, 2020-present

Courses Taught: Leadership Theories and Ethics, Education Politics and Policy

Western Kentucky University, Department of Educational Leadership and Research

Adjunct Professor of Educational Administration, 2004, 2014-present

Courses taught: School Law and Policy, Educational Research, School Finance, Community Systems and Resources, Introduction to School Leadership, and Building Culture and Community

Western Kentucky University, Potter College of Arts and Letters, Department of Political Science

Adjunct Professor of Public Administration, 2013

Courses taught: Problems in Public Administration- Community and Economic Development

Western Kentucky University, Potter College of Arts and Letters, Department of History

Adjunct Professor of History, 2004-2006, 2017- present

Courses taught: Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome

Owensboro Community and Technical College, Humanities Division

Associate Professor of History, 2003-2006

Courses taught: Western Civilization I, II, Integrated Humanities, and Development of Leadership (GE 140)

Brescia University, Department of History

Adjunct Professor of History, 1995-96

Courses taught: World Civilization I, II

Daviess County High School, Liberal Arts Academy

Secondary Social Studies Teacher, 1991-1998; Head Boys Soccer Coach, 1991-1994

Courses taught: AP European History, AP American Government, AP Comparative Government, Economics, US History, and World Civilization/ Humanities

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Research Interest

- Educational policy issues focusing on the secondary to postsecondary transition, and the history and philosophy of American education, especially origins, structure and reform of the American high school.
- Leadership theory, policy, research and practice, specifically the importance of complex adaptive coalitions and associational leadership at the community level.

Dissertation

Brake, N. (2003). *Predictors of student success in dual credit programs*. Submitted to the University of Louisville in partial fulfillment of a Ph.D.

Publications

Welsh, J., Choi, N., & Brake, N. (2005) Student participation and performance in dual credit courses in a reform environment. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 29(3), 199-213.

Papers Presented at Refereed Conference Proceedings

Brake, N. (2000, November). Student course-taking delivered through a high school block schedule: The relationship between the academic core and student achievement. *Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association*, Bowling Green, KY.

Brake, N., Davis, M. & Ashley, P. (2000, November). Fostering reading and language skills in young children: A statistical analysis. *Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association*, Bowling Green, KY.

Research Projects and Technical Reports

Brake, N. (2019). *Middletowns, company towns and college towns: Civic engagement, social capital, economic growth, and education in middle America*. Working presentation and manuscript.

Brake, N. (2018). *Politics and policy of adequacy funding in education: A case study of Kentucky and Kansas*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, Politics and Policy.

Brake, N. (2017) *State fiscal policy supporting investments in education*. A whitepaper for the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents.

Brake, N. (2011). *An economic impact of agriculture in the Owensboro MSA*. Published report of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation, Owensboro, KY.

Brake, N. (2010). *Economic performance of Owensboro and peer regions, 2000-2010*. Published report of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation, Owensboro, KY.

Brake, N. (2010). *Community-driven globally competitive high schools: Creating a workforce for the 21st Century in the Greater Owensboro region*. Published report of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation, Owensboro, KY.

Brake, N. (2009). *An economic impact of health care in the Greater Owensboro region*. Published report of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation, Owensboro, KY.

Brake, N., Gesser, C. & Beardmore, K. (2005). *Owensboro Community and Technical College application for institutional accreditation*. Unpublished report of the Owensboro Community and Technical College submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Brake, N. (2004). *Evaluation of student performance in the dual credit courses of the Discover College program at Owensboro Community and Technical College*. Unpublished report of the Office of Institutional Research at Owensboro Community and Technical College.

Brake, N. (1997). *German immigration to the Cincinnati area 1830-1850: Years of impact and leadership*. Submitted to Western Kentucky University in partial fulfillment of an MA in history.

Presentations at National Conference Proceedings

Brake, N. & Edds-Ellis, S. (2016, October). *Building a project-based learning school featuring pathways to STEM*. National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships National Conference, Louisville, KY.

Cook, D., Brake, N. & Hamby, T. (2015, February). *Policy solutions from the Kentucky district of innovation program*. Council of State Governments, Education Policy Academy, Orlando, FL.

Brake, N. (April 2008). *Education and workforce development as economic development*. Kentucky Association of Economic Development, Henderson, KY.

Addington, J. & Brake, N. (2004, April). *Discover college as model for dual credit programs*, American Association of Community Colleges, Minneapolis, MN.

Brake, N. (2002, June). *Building community partnerships with dual credit programs*. National High Schools That Work Conference, Louisville, KY.

Brake, N. (2002, October). *Discovering success through Discover College dual credit and tech prep model*. National Tech Prep Conference, Cincinnati, OH.

Brake, N. & Keller, G. (1996, July). *School-within-a-school academy model at Daviess County (KY) High School*. Southern Regional Education Board, Atlanta, GA.

Newspaper Op/Ed Articles

Brake, N. (April 26, 2018). Want to support public schools? Stop cutting taxes. *Education Week*.

Brake, N. (January 19, 2010). Globally competitive high schools key for our future. *Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer*.

Brake, N. (December 12, 2007). Stay the course with higher education reform. *Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer*.

Brake, N. (December 17, 2006). A new economic development strategy for Owensboro. *Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer*.

Grant Funding

Leadership Owensboro Program Young Fellows Civic Leadership Grant. Young Foundation of Owensboro (2019). Project Leader (\$100,000).

Owensboro Innovation Academy- New Tech Network School Development Grant. Public Life Foundation of Owensboro (2014-2017). Project Supervisor, \$450,000

Avoiding the Summer Slide through Summer Reading Intervention Camps Grant. Public Life Foundation of Owensboro (2014-2016). Project Supervisor, \$220,000

Regional Workforce Investment Grant, Building an Advanced Manufacturing Workforce. Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (2012-13). Project Supervisor, \$62,000.

P-16 Maintaining Capacity Grant for Regional Alliance P-16 Council. Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (2001). Project Supervisor, \$25,000.

Collegiate High School National Middle College Grant. Middle College National Consortium through Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2005-2006). Project Supervisor, \$128,000.

Discover College Mentoring Program. Green River Workforce Investment Board (2000-2003). Project supervisor, \$303,000.

Kentucky High School Reform Grant for Discover College Middle College Program. Kentucky Department of Education (2002). Project Director, \$60,000.

Kentucky School-to-Career Grant for Regional Alliance for Education. Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet (2000-2002). Project Co-Director, \$180,300.

P-16 Building Capacity Grant for Regional Alliance P-16 Council. Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (2001). Project Co-Director, \$10,000.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

National Service

Harvard Law School and National Education Association, Teacher Walkout Symposium, 2018
American Association of Community Colleges, National College and Career Readiness Group, 2018
White House Domestic Policy Council, USDOE, Education Innovation Summit (invitation-only), 2016
Wallace Foundation University Principal Preparation Initiative, 2016-present
Aspen Institute, Working Group for State Education Agencies, Washington, D.C., 2015
American Association of School Superintendents, National Governing Board, 2017-2020
American Association of School Superintendents, Legislative Corps, Washington, D.C., 2015- present
Council of State Governments, Education Policy Academy, 2015

Statewide Service

Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, Board of Directors, 2015-present
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Principal Leadership Program, Advisory Board, 2014-present
Kentucky Workforce Investment Board, Governor-appointed WIOA Steering Committee, 2015
Kentucky Association of School Administrators, Legislative Liaison, 2013-present
Kentucky United Trade Missions to Japan, Mexico, and Canada, 2006-2012
Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, State Incentive Reform Task Force, 2009
Kentucky United, Economic Development visits to Boston, Detroit, New York, San Francisco, 2009-2013
Kentucky BioAlliance, 2008-2013
Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky, Board of Directors, 2006-present
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, Task Force on Access to Higher Education, 2007
Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Statewide Task Force for Dual Credit, 2005
Kentucky Department of Education Refocusing Secondary Education Task Force, 2003- 2005
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, High School Reform Task Force, 2004-2005

Community Service

Western Kentucky University—Owensboro, Advisory Board, 2008- present
Leadership Owensboro Program, Faculty Member, 2006-present
Owensboro Symphony Orchestra Governing Board, 2016-present
CBS/Fox 44 News Evansville, News Opinion Community Panel, 2015-2018
Regional Alliance for Education P-16 Council, 1998- present; Chair, 2001-2002, 2014-present
United Way of the Ohio Valley, Campaign Cabinet, 2018- present
Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Transportation Committee, 2006-2013
Workforce Investment Board, 2006-2013

Green River Regional Economic Development Council, 2006-2013
Owensboro Public Art Commission, 2006- 2013
City of Owensboro Strategic Planning Task Force, 2007
Community Conversations for Deliberative Democracy, 1999-2003; Chair, 2002-2003
Leadership Owensboro, Board Chair, 2006-07
Leadership Owensboro, Class of 2000
Museum of Science and History Board of Directors, 1999-2000
Wendell Ford Government Education Center, 1998-1999
Daviess County High School, Site Based Decision Making Council, Vice Chair 1996-1998
Daviess County Public Schools, District-wide Curriculum Committee Chair, 1999-2000

Affiliations and Memberships

American Association of School Administrators, the Superintendents Association, 2013-present
Kentucky Association of School Administrators, 2013-present
Kentucky Association of Superintendents, 2013-present
Horace Mann League, 2013-present
Phi Beta Kappan, 2013-present
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Member, 2004-present
Rotary Club, 2006-2010, and 2014 to the present
Kiwanis Club, 1998-2002
World Affairs Council, 2004-2010
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, 1990-1997

Awards and Honors

Kentucky Department of Education, Innovation in Education Leadership Award, 2019
Western Kentucky University Summit Award for Volunteers, 2018
Liberty Bell Award for Outstanding Public Service, Daviess County Bar Association, 2018
Top 25 School Districts in U.S. for Innovation, American Association of School Administrators, 2018
Kentucky Administrator of the Year, Kentucky Music Educators Association, 2017
Kentucky Superintendent of the Year, Finalist, 2017
Top 25 National Superintendents to Watch, National School Public Relations Association, 2016
R.L. MacFarland Leadership Award for Human Rights, Owensboro Human Relations Commission, 2016
Owensboro Public Schools, Kennedy Center Award of Excellence for Outstanding Arts District, 2016
Owensboro Public Schools, National School Board Association Magna Award, Honorable Mention, 2015
Owensboro Public Schools, District of Distinction, *District Administration Magazine*, 2015
Owensboro Public Schools, Kentucky District of Innovation, 2014
Greater Owensboro Realtor Association, Heritage Award for Community Leadership, 2013
Western Kentucky University-Owensboro, Commencement Address, 2012
Kentucky Association for Economic Development, PEAK Award- Workforce Development Program, 2002
Northern Kentucky Soccer Hall of Fame, 2002
Nominee, Kentucky Outstanding Leader for the New Century, 2000
Twenty Leaders Under Forty, *Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer*, 2000
Daviess County High School Yearbook Dedication for Outstanding Teacher, 1997

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

National Institute for School Leadership & National Council for Education and the Economy, 2017
NISL Superintendent Academy

Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2016
Education Redesign, Building a New Model, Professor Paul Reville

New Tech Network, 2015
Annual Conference for New School Leadership Development, Chicago

University of Chicago, Urban Education Institute, 2015
Critical Issues in Urban Education, Graduate Course (online)

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, 2014
Ontario Superintendent Leadership Exchange, Professors Kenneth Leithwood and Michael Fullan

Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2014
Askwith Forum on the Common Core State Standards, Cambridge, MA

University of Miami (FL) College of Architecture, 2009
Graduate-level course in Principles and Practices in New Urbanism, Miami, FL

University of Illinois- Chicago, Council for Community and Economic Research, 2008
Economic Impact, Fiscal Impact, and Economic Base Analysis Course, Chicago, IL

Georgia Institute of Technology, 2007
International Economic Development Council Workforce Development Course, Atlanta, GA

University of Kentucky, Gatton College of Business and Economics, 2006
Economic Development Institute, Lexington, KY

LaGuardia Community College, Middle College National Consortium, 2004
Middle College High School Principal Training Residency, New York, NY

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, National Paideia Center, 2001
Paideia School Leadership Institute, Chapel Hill, NC

Education Trust, 2000
P-16 Leaders Institute, San Antonio, TX

Great Books Foundation, 1999
Great Books Shared Inquiry Training Course, Bowling Green, KY

Carleton College, 1992
Advanced Placement European History Symposium on using the Oxford Tutorial, Northfield, MN