



October 10, 2016

Dear Students,

Shalom, and welcome to Bellevue University (BU) and the YIEP Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership (YMAEL) program! My name is Dr. Stephen Linenberger and I will be your professor for the first, middle, and last courses in this program. The remaining courses will be taught by Dr. Marcia Brown. Together we have a combined total of 16 years teaching experience in YMAEL. We are confident that you will find this program personally transformational and professionally valuable.

The YMAEL program started in July 2005 when our first cohort of students convened class in Boro Park, Brooklyn. Today, your class represents the 12th consecutive YMAEL cohort! Over the years we have used student feedback and assessment data to modify courses to meet the needs of our orthodox Jewish students. Our goal is to provide you with real learning for real life in an environment that is culturally sensitive, flexible yet rigorous, and useful to you no matter your work background or profession. Although many of the courses are geared toward educational leadership, the material can be applied in any context or experience to help you gain a deeper understanding of leadership dynamics and to increase leadership effectiveness.

I am proud to state that I have taught in YIEP MAEL from day one. As our other programs grew, I also took on the role as director of YIEP at BU. If you are interested in my educational background and experience, please see my attached curriculum vitae.

I would like to now take a moment to go over the options for completing the first course, LDRE 602 Leadership Theories and Practices:

Option 1 (Online): The online version of LDRE 602 will start on October 31, 2016. You will login to BlackBoard and submit discussion posts, assignments, and papers during this six week course. Please do your best to meet every deadline. If a due date is a problem, please contact your professor so arrangements can be made for an extension - especially for Jewish lifecycle events. Extensions can only be granted if you contact the instructor beforehand.

Option 2 (Onsite/Blended): Normally we offer the first course at an onsite location in NYC during late summer, making it easier for most of the class to attend. However, this year we are starting the YMAEL program later than usual to work around the holidays. Although, we understand that most everyone will be busy with work, we are offering to hold class from Sun. December 4th - Wed. December 7th in Cedarhurst, NY. We can only accommodate this option if more than half the class is able to attend. **THEREFORE, PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS EMAIL AND**

CC ME AT stephen.linenberger@bellevue.edu AND INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT YOU COULD ATTEND THE ONSITE COURSE. Keep in mind that if we hold the onsite class, you will be asked complete all readings during the four weeks leading up to the first day of the onsite class. You will also be asked to submit two assignments in BlackBoard, so that you can get some practice in the online classroom.

ONCE AGAIN PLEASE RESPOND WITH YOUR VOTE FOR OPTION 1 OR OPTION 2.

The following information will give you an overview of many of the resources you will use throughout the program.

General Course Information

As a student in an online program, you will need to familiarize yourself with several resources you will use including the online classroom (known as BlackBoard), library, and student services (known as BRUIN). All of the resources listed below can be accessed from the Bellevue Login page at <http://www.bellevue.edu/footer/login/log-in>. I highly recommend bookmarking this page for easy access.

Bellevue Real-Time User Information Network (commonly referred to as BRUIN)

This is the primary website to access many administrative functions.

Service Desk Information

If you need help with your school user Id, access to BlackBoard (officially referred to as Bellevue University Cybractive Classroom), access to or questions about BRUIN, contact the Service Desk. Contact information for the Service Desk is at the lower right part of page 3.

Class Registration

YMAEL is an accelerated cohort program, therefore, class registration is handled by our enrollment department.

Ordering Textbooks

Information about ordering textbooks through our bookstore is provided here. **If you have not ordered your textbook yet, I would encourage you to do so as soon as possible.** However, please order books from any source that offers the lowest price. Amazon, Abes Books, Ebay, halfprice.com, are all good websites for cheap books, but please beware of so-called "International Editions" as they often are missing text, from a few pages to an entire chapter.

You will need the following information if you order books from the bookstore:

COURSE NUMBER: LDRE 602

COURSE NAME: Leadership Theories and Practices

TERM: Fall 2163

SECTION NUMBER: O971

Student Email Account

You will be given a Bellevue University student email account. Emails from the various Bellevue University departments will be sent to this email address and your professors will also use this email address. You may forward your Bellevue University email to another email address of your choice if you like. **However, we do ask that you use the Bellevue email address when**

corresponding with your professors. IMPORTANT: Check your BU email daily because this is the only place you will be informed of important course announcements and university announcements.

Bellevue University Online Library

Our online library is one of the premier online libraries in the nation. In fact, I hear this regularly from students in my classes who have come from other universities. Our online holdings are significant and our librarians top notch. You access the online library through BRUIN. Not only do you have library privileges as a student but as an alumni, you have lifetime privileges to our library services.

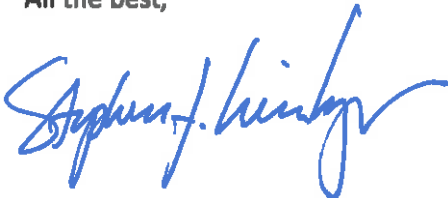
Bellevue University Cyberactive Classroom (BlackBoard)

This will be your "classroom" for the program. You will be given access to your classroom in Blackboard on the week of October 24th. I encourage you to spend some time during that week to become comfortable with BlackBoard's features. The full course will be available to you on Monday, October 31st. At that point you will have access to the syllabus, course assignments, and supplemental instructional materials.

Again, welcome to Bellevue University and the YMAEL program. We are excited to begin this program with you.

If you ever have questions or feedback at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me. In fact, if you would just like to call and introduce yourself or discuss your educational and professional goals, I would very much like to meet you. My contact information is listed below.

All the best,



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