

The logo for CTL (California Teachers Leadership) is displayed in a large, white, serif font on a black rectangular background. The background of the entire page is a collage of various educational terms and CSUN-related text in different colors and orientations.

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Educational Leadership: Helping Manage Reform in India

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The Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) program, a two-year Master's degree at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), offers aspiring leaders a unique opportunity to develop the skills necessary to address the complex challenges facing educational institutions today. The ELPS program at CSUN emphasizes justice-oriented educational leadership, aiming to cultivate educators who are not only effective but also committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. This is achieved by fostering an environment where educational leaders are empowered to challenge systemic inequities and transform schools into places that affirm the identities and potential of all students. Through ELPS 673HE: Leadership for Managing Reform in Higher Education, students develop project proposals designed to address the needs of diverse groups in higher educational settings. The course implements a community engagement experience which allows students to put theory into practice by working together to serve a community in need.

This Fall 2024 semester, ELPS course instructor, Dr. Joshua Einhorn, linked students to a school in India through CSUN's Office of Community Engagement. The 2024 ELPS cohort collaborated to create a **GoFundMe** page with a goal of raising \$2,400. Donated funds would be used to support full-year salaries for two teachers at the Lotus Free School, an elementary school in rural India, built by The James Jay Daley Luce Foundation. In recognition of their efforts, the class was presented with a team award from The James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation at a ceremony in New York City.

Jim Luce, the founder of The James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation, is a prominent figure in global citizenship and leadership with 34 years of experience in investment banking and in the non-profit sector. His career is marked by a blend of expertise in finance and philanthropy. Luce is dedicated to developing family-care models in Sri Lanka and Tanzania, focusing on sustainable solutions which empower families and communities, as well as social justice and humanitarian causes. The Luce Foundation established the Lotus Charitable Trust in Bihar, India, securing land to begin construction of the Lotus Free School in 2018, making a significant step toward addressing the educational needs in the region. The school, where students can attend classes six days a week, was created to serve the community and educate students between the ages of six and fourteen. Currently, the Lotus Free School has two temporary classrooms, with five under construction, and accommodates 75 students in grades one through six. Establishing a foundation rooted in education can be life changing to these students, and having the opportunity for social mobility will greatly change their lives.

Both the ELPs program and Luce’s work are grounded in principles of social justice and empowerment, creating opportunities for marginalized groups and fostering leadership that transcends borders. These efforts underscore a commitment to leadership that not only addresses the immediate needs of diverse populations but also advocates for long-term systemic change and empowerment – a hallmark of CSUN’s Educational Leadership programs.

Individuals interested in pursuing a Master’s in Higher Education Leadership through the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at CSUN are encouraged to apply through the Michael D. Eisner College of Education. Interested students must submit a departmental application, transcripts, statement of purpose, and two letters of recommendation. Once accepted to the program, applicants will be required to submit a formal graduate application through CSU Apply. More information regarding the program can be found on the Michael D. Eisner College of Education website and through the various informational webinars hosted by the ELPS program.

Want to learn more about the ELPS Program?

Check out this site for more information: *ELPS* or Scan QR code.



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