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Chapman Establishes Ph.D. Program in Education

ORANGE, Calif., Sept. 20, 2006 Chapman University enters a new phase in its long history with the establishment of the university's first Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. in Education, offered by the Chapman University School of Education, will offer doctorates in three separate areas of emphasis: Cultural and Curricular Studies, Disability Studies, and School Psychology. Applications will be accepted starting Sept. 28, with the program set to begin in fall 2007.

The university will launch its new Ph.D. program with a celebratory reception on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 2:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Leatherby Libraries building. Chapman President James L. Doti and Dr. Don Cardinal, dean of the School of Education, will make remarks, and the first two applicants to the program will hand in their applications to Dr. Joel Colbert, the School of Education's new director of Ph.D. studies, in a special ceremony. Light refreshments will be served. The public is welcome to attend, and admission to the reception is free.

The Ph.D. in Education Chapman University's first research-oriented doctoral program will focus not only on the application and transmission of existing knowledge, but also on the formulation of new ways to think about issues and solve problems facing educators in our state and the nation, said Dr. Cardinal. Candidates will learn and conduct research alongside colleagues, including school psychologists, special and general educators and other school leaders, thus learning to work and solve problems collaboratively, rather than in parallel as is the case with most schools. Upon graduation, most candidates will obtain employment as professors of education or school psychology, and others will assume leadership roles within schools and agencies.

Dr. Colbert added, All three fields of emphasis offered by the Chapman program are crucially needed, particularly by the state of California, which is in great need of well-trained, knowledgeable leaders in these areas of education. These scholars will join university faculty and education agencies, providing research and scholarship necessary to meet the growing needs of our states and our nations diverse student population.

Chapman University has offered a clinical doctorate in physical therapy the D.P.T. degree since 2001, and has offered a J.D. degree from the School of Law since 1995, but the Ph.D. in education is the university's first academic, research-oriented doctoral program.

See [Ph.D. website](#) to learn more.