

**Institute for Educational Leadership**  
**4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW – Suite 100, Washington, DC 20008**  
**&**  
**Office of K-12 Outreach, College of Education, 620 Farm Lane**  
**Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824**

***Education Policy in Iceland: A National Approach to  
Child Development  
Fall 2021 Program Description***

**Global EPFP Co-Coordinator**

Robert J. Monson, Ph.D.  
Coordinator, New York Education Policy Fellowship Program  
Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis  
Teachers College, Columbia University [rjm210@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:rjm210@tc.columbia.edu)  
(203) 536-8747 (cell)

**&**

Daniel W. Schultz, Coordinator Emeritus  
Michigan Education Policy Fellowship Program  
Senior Policy and Program Advisor, Office of K-12 Outreach  
Michigan State University [dws@msu.edu](mailto:dws@msu.edu)

**Purpose of the Program**

To provide GEPFP Senior Fellows with the opportunity to study education policy in the Age of Globalization by investigating education policy challenges in economically developed and developing countries.

**Program Goals - 2021**

Across cultures, political leaders and policy makers are preparing initiatives to ensure that their countries will remain competitive in a global economy. What implications will a global economy have on education policy in the U.S. and other systems? How should schools and universities revise their programs and services to prepare young people to be successful in workplaces that are evolving as technology's influence become increasingly pervasive? The Senior Fellows will examine two focusing questions through their engagement with experts in Icelandic K-12 and higher education policy: 1) *To what extent, if any, does education policy in Iceland reflect North American education policy and practices; and, 2) In what ways, if any, does the a national approach to developmental education promote a country's longer term social and economic goals?*

The 2021 Global Education Policy Fellowship Program will engage Senior Fellows in conversations about these and other questions with policy makers and educators in Iceland. Across a series of Friday online synchronous meetings and an October field study in Iceland, Senior Policy Fellows will:

- Develop an appreciation for the relationship between Icelandic history, culture, and its education policy agenda;
- Examine the national Ministry of Education's focus on developmental education and the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Develop an awareness of how educators in Iceland view U.S. education policy and its influence on their country;
- Establish networking relationships with influential public policy makers and education leaders in Iceland;
- Visit a variety of schools and universities in Iceland.

### **Schedule of GEPFP Meetings in 2021**

Note: Dates are tentative and subject to change (except for the field study). All times are Eastern Time Zone. A series of four Friday two-hour meetings will be held on-line using Zoom - US, a software program that enables participants to see and hear each other simultaneously, provided their computers have a webcam, audio microphone, and speakers.

#### **Friday, August 27, 2021. 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Program Orientation and Expectations.**

Orientation to the 2021 Global EPFP and introduction to Iceland's education system.

Guest expert: Dr. Kolbeinn Hólmar Stefánsson, Associate Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work, University of Iceland. Demography and the Future of Work in Iceland.

*Readings to be discussed:*

#### **Wednesday (note date change), September 15, 2021. 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Political and Economic Policy in Iceland.**

Guest expert: Dr. Ólafur Þórður Harðarson, Professor of Political Science, University of Iceland.

*Readings to be discussed:*

#### **Friday, October 15, 2021. 10:00AM to 12:00PM. The Education Policy Agenda for Iceland.**

Guest Expert: Dr. Kolfinna Jóhannesdóttir, Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Iceland Ministry of Education.

*Readings to be discussed:*

**Friday, October 22 through Saturday, October 30 2021. The Field Study in Iceland.** The field study in Iceland is designed to provide Senior Fellows with an opportunity to:

- Explore new models of teacher education and training;
- Discuss the challenges of providing education and training during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Develop relationships with educators and policymakers in Iceland;

- Attend briefings in schools, universities, national and provincial ministries of education, and other key educational organizations;
- Collect data related to the optional policy analysis project;
- Visit historic and cultural sites in Iceland.

### **Tentative Day-By-Day Itinerary Iceland**

#### **DAY 01 FRIDAY, October 22 - DEPART USA**

Departure flights from the U.S. to Reykjavik, Iceland. Keflavik International Airport (KEF).

#### **DAY 02 SATURDAY, October 23 - ARRIVE REYKJAVIK**

Arrival and complete immigration and custom formalities. Meet the local representative outside the baggage claim area for escort to a private coach for transfer to the Icelandair Hotel Marina. Lunch and dinner on your own.

#### **DAY 03 SUNDAY, October 24 - REYKJAVIK**

Global EPFP Orientation briefing at the hotel followed by a full day of touring the famous Golden Circle Drive, including Thingvellir National Park, the Pingvellir fissure zone, Gullfos and the geysers of Geysir with English-speaking guide. Breakfast and lunch provided. Dinner on your own.

#### **DAY 04 MONDAY, October 25**

Morning: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM: Orientation briefing at the Ministry of Education.

Afternoon: Education briefings and school visits. Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

#### **DAY 05 TUESDAY, October 26**

Morning: Briefing and upper secondary school visit.

Afternoon: Briefing with regional education policy leaders and/or school visits. Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

#### **DAY 06 WEDNESDAY, October 27**

Morning: Briefing and public compulsory school visit.

Afternoon: Briefing and private school visit. Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

#### **DAY 07 THURSDAY, October 28**

Morning: Symposium at the University of Iceland with faculty, researchers, and graduate students.

Afternoon: Cultural program site visit. Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

#### **DAY 08 FRIDAY, October 29**

Morning: Cultural program site visits including Nordic Cultural Center and National Maritime Museum

Afternoon: Late afternoon group de-briefing of field study. Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

**DAY 09 SATURDAY, October 30 Return flight to U.S.A.** Transfer to the Keflavik International Airport for flight home.

**Friday, November 12, 2021. 10:00 to 12:00PM. Making Sense of Education Development in Iceland: Post-trip De-briefing and Reflections.**

Guest expert:

*Readings to be discussed:* TBA

### **GEPFP Policy Analysis (Optional)**

**Completion of a Global Education Policy Analysis.** Each Fellow will have the opportunity to complete a written capstone policy analysis of an education policy initiative in Iceland. Working individually, or in small (2-4 person) collaborative teams, senior fellows analyze an education policy initiative and identify any implications this challenge might have on education in the United States and/or the organization that sponsors the GEPFP experience. The focus of this policy brief would be identified prior to the March field experience. One or more researchable questions would be developed prior to our departure and would focus the data gathering process for the year. The post-tour Friday meetings will provide opportunities for fellows to share and discuss their findings and the likely implications they see for U.S. education. Details about the policy analysis will be provided during the August 27 on-line meeting.

### **Suggested Readings and Media:**

Note: Articles will be provided to program participants as electronic documents for your educational use only. Additional readings may be assigned by our Friday on-line guest speakers and will be provided.

<https://www.european-agency.org/country-information/iceland>

<https://www.european-agency.org/country-information/reports?country%5B183%5D=183>

Berglind Rós Magnúsdóttir et al. (2020). Article in: <http://www.irpa.is/article/view/a.2020.16.2.10>

White Paper on Education Reform (2014):

<https://www.stjornarradid.is/media/menntamalaraduneyti-media/media/ritogskyrslur/White%20Paper%20on%20education%20reform%202016.pdf>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/20004508.2017.1421390> (article on disability studies in education – DSE – in Finland and Iceland)

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/20004508.2018.1428032> – and other articles in that issue of Education Inquiry

Iceland Education Policy 2030 and it's Implementation, OECD Education Policy Perspectives, #32. (2021)

Bjarnason, E. *How Iceland Changed the World: The Big History of a Small Island*; Penguin Books; 2021

### **About the Global EPFP Co-Coordinators**

**Bob Monson** coordinates the Education Policy Leadership Program in the Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis at Teachers College, Columbia University. From 2000 to 2009, he was a senior lecturer and program coordinator in education leadership at Teachers College. In 1977, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Across seven states he has served public school children in the capacities of teacher, high school assistant principal, high school principal, assistant superintendent, and four superintendent positions in Ohio, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York. In 2010, he was a visiting fellow in education at Oxford University. He has been a consultant to the University of Cambridge (UK) International Education as well as a consultant in China, the U.A.E., Bhutan, Nicaragua, and India.

**Dan Schultz** is Coordinator Emeritus for the Michigan Education Policy Fellowship Program (MI EPFP), a program he co-led for more than 35 years. He serves as Senior Policy and Program Advisor for the Office of K-12 Outreach in the College of Education at Michigan State University. He has developed and led over 20 academic and policy-oriented study tours to China, India, Botswana, Bhutan, Germany, Switzerland and the U.K. His background includes executive leadership and policy roles in state government in Michigan, where he was Assistant State Superintendent and Director of Technology and Grants for the Michigan Department of Education. He holds academic degrees in economics and education administration. He is the recipient of the Michigan Reading Association's Advocacy Award, the MSU College of Education Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award, the Institute for Educational Leadership's National Leadership Award, and the International Friendship Award from Southwest University in China.

6/25/21