

# **“Steering at a Distance”: Lessons from Efforts to Improve Graduate Educational Leadership Programs in the US**

**Laarni Goma**

University of Missouri

**Brendan Maxcy**

University of Missouri

**Jay Paredes Scribner\***

Associate Professor & Chair

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis

University of Missouri

## **Abstract**

The purpose of this paper is to examine efforts in the United States to make educational leadership programs in higher education more accountable to stakeholders and thus achieve higher quality outcomes. Specifically, the paper discusses (1) the current state of graduate education in the field of educational leadership; (2) the external and internal pressures for program change; and (3) the various ideologies and assumptions inherent in the debates about how these programs should be changed. In the final section of the paper we discuss lessons that may be learned from the US experience in light of assumptions held about the US system both within and outside the US.

**Keyword:** Educational Leadership; Leadership Preparation; Performance Standards