KELI launches mentoring program for new principals

When students headed back to classrooms this fall, 20 first-year principals in districts across Kansas embarked on a highly focused, yearlong professional development program designed by the Kansas Educational Leadership Institute, or KELI.

KELI is a consortium of five organizations that banded together three years ago to form a professional development and leadership training program for newly hired school leaders. Initial efforts focused on school superintendents, but the organization’s plan always was to expand programming for building-level leaders.

“New principals will now have the opportunity to benefit from onsite, individual mentoring and support as they navigate their new leadership position,” said KELI Executive Director Mary Devin.

“KELI seeks to develop quality leaders who are committed to continued growth. This type of leadership attracts and retains quality teachers, resulting in excellence in education across Kansas.”

KELI was launched in 2011 and is housed in the College of Education. Its partners are the Kansas School Superintendents Association, United School Administrators, Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas State Department of Education and Kansas State University.