Research Statement For The URI/RIC PhD in Education Program

The URI/RIC PhD in Education Program is for individuals who seek to advance their research knowledge and skills for the purpose of creating and supporting positive change in diverse educational settings. We expect all students in our program to be skilled at writing for an academic audience and to be passionate about at least one key area of research. As part of your application materials, we would like you to complete a short academic paper (approximately 2 pages). Some context and directions for your paper are as follows:

During your program, you will work alongside faculty to develop research skills that apply to an array of careers in academia, K-12 schools, government and nonprofit organizations. To support you in these efforts, faculty members from both institutions provide a broad range of scholarly expertise that we have recently clustered into five broad and overlapping areas. Currently, these areas of expertise include:

- Literacy in Education (Print and Digital)
- Special Education
- Adult and Higher Education
- Pedagogy and Practice (Instruction, Curriculum, Assessment, and Teacher Education)
- Equity and Social Justice in Education

With this in mind, we would like you to do the following in your paper:

1. Identify the area (one or more from the five listed above) in which you are most interested as you consider your motivations and goals for obtaining a doctorate in education. In other words, where do you currently see yourself fitting into the communities of expertise available in our PhD program? If you see yourself outside of these areas, how would you best characterize your research interests (understanding they are likely to change/evolve as you move through the program)?

2. Conduct a very brief review of current research being done in this area, using the Internet and/or any academic journals or reports you are able to access. This research (3-4 sources) should reflect what is happening on a national, or even international level, depending on what is most appropriate for your area(s) of interest and concern.

3. Write a short synthesis of how your current interests and educational concerns align with the research you found. Then discuss how you see your work in some way connecting to or building on this research to eventually create positive change in diverse educational settings.

Other details for your paper:
- Please use APA format to refer to 3-4 academic sources that support your thinking and demonstrate your awareness of what is currently happening in this area of education. For tips on APA format, you can refer to Online Writing Lab at http://goo.gl/V2akX
- Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 600 words (two pages). Your reference list at the end is NOT included in the 600 words, so the whole paper might run onto a third page.
- Please email your academic paper to Changhee Lee at lechhe86@gmail.com no later than the January 31 deadline with a short request to have this paper included with the rest of your application materials. Papers submitted after this deadline will not be accepted.
- PLEASE NOTE: If you have previously written an academic paper about your interests, we highly encourage you to share that in your materials as additional evidence of your skills in writing for an academic audience. However, we would also like you to complete this short writing assignment to better understand how you see your work fitting into the areas of expertise in our program. This will help us to match you with a major professor who can best support your efforts early in the program.