



News Brief

School of Education

“Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

April 2022

Issue 4



AAQEP ACCREDITATION AWARDED TO SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Congratulations NICE GOING!
GREAT! *Way to Go!*
Yea! FELICITATIONS
CHEERS *Take A* BEST
BOW! WISHES!



SUNY Old Westbury School of Education Earns National Accreditation of Teacher Preparation Programs

The Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) has awarded a full 7-year accreditation to the undergraduate and graduate programs for educator preparation at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury.

After reviewing the evidence collected through a process of self-study and peer review, the AAQEP Accreditation Commission issued the decision at its January 14th meeting along with the following rationale:

The Commission evaluated the program’s evidence for each AAQEP standard and determined that all four standards are met. Completers of the program are prepared to work effectively as professional educators and are able to adapt to different contexts and to grow professionally. The program has the capacity to analyze and provide evidence for sustained actions and revisions on behalf of candidates, and it engages with stakeholders and local partners to strengthen the P-20 education system.

Bolstered by strong institutional support and community input, the program provides its diverse student body with individualized support through graduation, and as they enter the field. The program’s work is guided by a comprehensive assessment and data system characterized by rigorous attention to data quality.

“Congratulations to the SUNY Old Westbury School of Education and to all of the faculty, staff, and stakeholders who have achieved their goal of national accreditation by

AAQEP,” said AAQEP President and CEO Mark LaCelle-Peterson. “This program combines deeply personalized attention to students with a highly developed data system that provides for nuanced analysis of program performance.”

National accreditation assures the quality of professional preparation programs through a nongovernmental, nonregulatory process of self-study and peer review. This standards-and evidence-based process serves two broad aims: accountability and continuous improvement. The AAQEP model is also designed to honor local context and foster innovation and collaboration among institutions. AAQEP currently has members in 28 states and territories with over 170 educator preparation providers participating in the accreditation system.

“Having our programs scrutinized by a national accrediting agency and compared to its set of standards and best practices empowered us to take a critical look at all that we do,” said Dean Sukhram. “In doing so, we were able to clearly see our strengths in preparing teacher-candidates with the tools necessary to serve their students while also taking a critical look at areas where we can improve.”

About SUNY Old Westbury

SUNY Old Westbury is a selective public liberal arts college with more than 4,500 students studying in more than 40 undergraduate degree opportunities in its liberal arts and professional programs and 16 graduate programs in business, education, liberal studies and mental health counseling. On the College’s 604-acre campus, students are challenged to take ownership of their futures through an environment that demands academic excellence, fosters intercultural understanding, and endeavors to stimulate a passion for learning and a commitment to building a more just and sustainable world. For more information on SUNY Old Westbury, visit www.oldwestbury.edu.

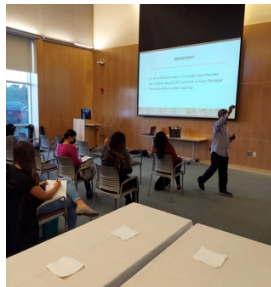
About AAQEP

Founded in 2017, AAQEP is a membership association and quality assurance agency that provides accreditation services and formative support to all types of educator preparation providers. The organization promotes excellent, effective, and innovative educator preparation that is committed to evidence-based improvement in a collaborative professional environment. AAQEP is nationally recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Visit aaqep.org for more information.

April 2022

SUNY Old Westbury's Teacher Opportunity Corps (TOC II) Initiative Continues Supporting the Advancement of Emerging Teachers of Color

Awarded with a second and consecutive five-year grant cycle for its TOC II program with a budget of \$1.625M, the School of Education's teacher diversity access initiative is partnering with an elite community of education leadership on Long Island, and across New York State. The TOC II program at OW offers its members opportunities to advance their pedagogy and develop their teacher practice through experiences which complement and build upon their



traditional preservice teacher training program. TOC supports students to build their own professional learning communities through networking with highly regarding educators. Throughout Fall 2021 and into Spring 2022, TOC scholars have participated in events ranging from an assessment workshop on the Danielson Framework to a NY Math Master Teachers' workshop. Most recently, TOC scholars along with the OW community, attended the March 9th speaking forum, "*It's Our Time: A Conversation with Black Women in School Leadership.*" Speakers included Chancellor NYS Board of Regents Lester W. Young, Jr., OW President Dr. Timothy E. Sams, and five notable district superintendents: Dr. Monique Darrisaw-Akil Superintendent of Uniondale School District, Regina Armstrong Superintendent of Hempstead School District, Dr. Lorna Lewis Superintendent of Malverne School District, Dr. Deborah Wortham Superintendent of Roosevelt School District, and Dr. Tahira Dupree Chase Superintendent of Westbury School District. The conversation was moderated by April Francis-Taylor, director of diversity, equity and inclusivity, Eastern Suffolk BOCES.

Upcoming TOC Events Include:

- 3/15 Preparing for Teaching Interviews
- 4/8 NY Master Teachers STEAM workshop
- 4/14 Finding Your Own Way: Career Advancement Options in Education
- 4/19 Preparing for the Future: Teachers Unions & Teacher Contract

**SUNY Old Westbury
School of Education**

Presents

**It's Our Time:
A Conversation with Black Women in School Leadership**

Featured Speakers:

 Dr. Monique Darrisaw-Akil Superintendent Uniondale School District	 Regina Armstrong Superintendent Hempstead School District	 Dr. Lorna Lewis Superintendent Malverne School District	 Dr. Deborah Wortham Superintendent Roosevelt School District	 Dr. Tahira Dupree Chase Superintendent Westbury School District
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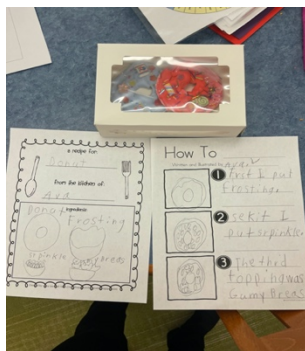
SOE LITERACY CLINIC

The Literacy Clinic Returns to In-Person Sessions at SUNY Old Westbury

The final semester of the Literacy Education Graduate Program is the Practicum course. For this course, a Literacy Clinic is held in the library and the Literacy Graduate Students work with students ranging from Pre-K to Grade 12 on reading and writing. In March 2020, the Literacy Clinic was held in a remote format due to COVID-19. This semester, the Literacy Clinic is back and is being held in-person!

This semester, the Literacy graduate students are working with either one student or a small group of students from the surrounding area. They began the semester by learning about the student(s) they are working with and assessing their reading and writing. Each Monday evening, they implement the lessons that they have planned. The lessons are tailored to the student's strengths and areas of need. As the Literacy Graduate Students are teaching, they receive support and feedback from the course instructors – Dr. Elizabeth Morphis and Dr. Stephanie Schneider.

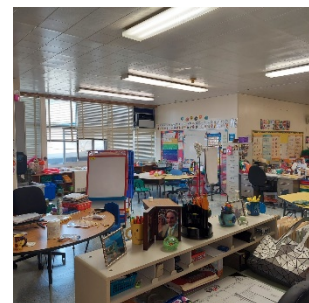
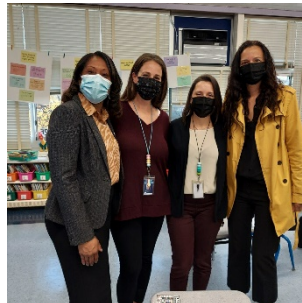
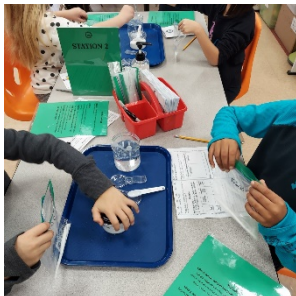
This semester, the Literacy Clinic is serving students from Pre-K to grade 11! The parents have commented on the strengths of the program and the additional support that their students are receiving from the OW School of Education Literacy Graduate students.



DEAN SUKHRAM'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH



*Visiting Partnering
School Districts*



Checking in on SOE alumni while on the job!

SOE FACULTY AND STAFF ON THE JOB!



Midnight Breakfast...



Open House!



Accepted Freshmen Day!

ALUMNI GIVE BACK

OMEGA PSI PHI UPSILON MU

“Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. is a fraternal organization built on friendship. The organization was founded on November 17th, 1911. Omega Psi Phi made its way to SUNY College at Old Westbury in 1980 by way of three sophomores - one from Syracuse University, one from East Tennessee State University, and one from Cheyney University. The first line to begin at Old Westbury was in 1981. This helped bring in many more lines and charter the Upsilon Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. in 1984. The Upsilon Mu Chapter has been devoted to providing the community with social action programs to uplift underprivileged populations. We continue to strive to find men of like attainment at Old Westbury. It’s an honor to be able to give back to the college!”

~Nakyle Bethay



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Research leads to discovery that has significance for advancements in physical rehabilitation.

A biometric hypothesis-generating investigation conducted by Dr. Fernando Espinoza of the Chemistry-Physics and Adolescence Education departments, in collaboration with Brandon Wheeler, a Stony Brook pre-medical student, resulted in a double-blind randomized study, the gold standard for medical research. The findings of the study are considered to have implications for post-stroke rehabilitation programs for women. The article, “*Handgrip as a measure of muscle strength and its physiological dependence on therapeutic variables: A randomized case,*” is due to appear in **Hand Surgery and Rehabilitation**, an Elsevier peer-reviewed medical journal that is the official publication of the French, Belgian, and Swiss Societies for Surgery of the Hand, as well as of the French Society of Rehabilitation of the Hand & Upper Limb. The online abstract is now available online.

Espinoza, F., Wheeler, B. (2022). Handgrip as a measure of muscle strength and its physiological dependence on therapeutic variables: A randomized case. *Hand Surgery and Rehabilitation*, 41, pp. 31–36. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hansur.2021.11.001>

Collaborative Conference Presentations

Faculty

Dr. Anissa Lynch and Dr. Elizabeth Morphis presented their research at the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) conference this February. Their research presentation, “*Real texts make for real learning: Bilingual teacher candidates learning to use Latinx children’s literature for biliteracy instruction*”, focused on their teaching in the clinically-rich courses and found that the inclusion of bilingual texts enabled bilingual teacher candidates to explore and complicate social, political, and cultural issues for themselves and their students.

Staff, Dean, and Faculty

On March 23rd, Josh Fyman-Assistant Dean for Data Management and Assessment, Dean Sukhram, and Associate Professor, Stephanie Schneider, presented at AAQEP’s Fifth Annual Quality Assurance Symposium. They shared with educators across the country how they are using the SOE accreditation process and the findings from the visit to better support alumni. Their session attracted over 170 attendees.

Abstract

Wanting to capture meaningful information about its alumni and better support them in their careers, the OW School of Education utilized a multi-faceted approach towards bolstering its engagement with alumni. The resulting system accomplishes three primary objectives. First, it allows the school to better adhere to AAQEP Standards 2 and 4 by providing the school with more comprehensive data and evidence about the performance of alumni. Second, we are gaining more perspectives on the needs of our alumni and finally, the system allows us to continue to engage with alumni and offer them a comprehensive set of resources to use as teachers.

April 2022

Faculty and Adjuncts

Cale, S., Clark, A., Durante, K., Gilic, L. (January 2022), Council for Exceptional Children Convention, Mind the Gap! Building a Bridge Between P-12 Schools and Higher Education, Orlando, FL.

As the SWD population increases in schools, demand for qualified special educators also increases. Our workshop described a pilot program designed to enhance teacher preparation by merging preservice college coursework, hands-on experiences, and clinical/ P-12 faculty. By bridging theory and practice, a sustainable P-12 and higher education partnership is formed.

For the past several years, a partnership between the School of Education Exceptional Education and Learning Department and the Plainview-Old Bethpage school district has expanded. During this time, an off-campus methods course has been taught on site within an elementary school classroom following an applied learning framework. In this course college students learn from and teach elementary students on a weekly basis coupled with the supervision of SUNY Old Westbury faculty and district teachers.

This experience allowed teacher candidates to directly connect traditional college classroom-based theory to the day-to-day aspects of working with a diverse student population in specialized classroom settings. They also helped lay the groundwork for a collaborative relationship between an institution of higher education and a local school district with a focus on best practices in education and benefit to all stakeholders.

Pilot qualitative data, including pre-/post-assessments and standards-based outcomes were presented. The data demonstrated that the clinically rich experience had effectively increased teacher candidates' repertoires and understanding of the diverse student body population that they are likely to encounter as a special educator in today's education system.

We will continue to further research and disseminate evidence of the need for the expansion of programs such as this, and continue to provide such opportunities in preservice teacher education programs.



SOE SPANISH EDUCATION STUDENTS CONFERENCE FACULTY ADVISOR: DR. BUSTAMANTE

School of Education Students and Alumna from the Spanish Education Program Presented at Professional Conferences!

Paula Oyarce, MAT Spanish Adolescence Education student and Spanish teacher at Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School, presented a session last November at the Long Island Language Teachers annual conference. Her session, "*Tech for Teachers: Engaging Tech Tools to Use in your World Language Classroom*," was a workshop designed for new teachers, student teachers, and teachers who would like to implement more technology tools into their WL classrooms to create engagement among students. In this workshop, Paula explored how to maximize engagement using PearDeck, StoryBoard That, EdPuzzle, Padlet, and Gimkit.

Nicole Bjarnason, MS Spanish Adolescence Education student and Spanish teacher, presented a session in February at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages annual conference with Dina Pannone from Deer Park School District. Their session, "*Strategies for Creating an Inclusive Classroom Through a Cultural Lens*," provided attendees with various strategies and tools to establish an inclusive classroom that develops positive student attitudes through differentiated instruction. Strategies included student-centered activities, scaffolding, advanced learner enrichment, and group collaboration.

Jessica Savarese, alumna from the MAT Spanish Adolescence Education program and Spanish teacher, presented a session in February at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Conference with Emilio Sosa and Jacqueline Ammirato from Longwood Central School District. Their session, "*The Challenge of Change and New York State World Language Revisions*," discussed transforming curriculum to align with the revised NYS standards and the mind shift it requires.



Kappa Delta Pi

Fall 2021 Fundraisers

Food Drive



In November of 2021 Alpha Theta Xi, chapter of Kappa Delta Pi held a week-long food drive for the food insecure on Long Island during the holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our Chapter was able to collect 273 pounds of food for those in need and sent it to Healthy LIFE Lutheran Social Services of New York. Each day, Lutheran Social Services of New York helps 7,000 people achieve their full potential. We thank all who contributed to our food drive because it helped make a difference in the lives of others in need during this season of giving. Thanks to the members of Kappa Delta Pi, SOE students, and other Old Westbury students for making this donation possible. (Left to right: Bridig Olsen, Vice President, Demi Spirou Secretary, Nicholle McGuigan, KDP President, 2021)

Toy Drive



Alpha Theta Xi's final charity project in Fall 2021 was an organized fundraiser for Marines Toys for Tots during. This fundraiser was held during the holiday season and toys were collected for children who are less fortunate. In December 2021, Kappa Delta Pi's project collected 70 toys! Marine Toys for Tots Program distributes an average of 18 million toys to 7 million less fortunate children each year. Thanks to everyone who contributed to these fundraising events and helped make the holidays a little brighter for the children. (Left to right: Marine Morales, Garden City base, Nicholle McGuigan, KDP President, 2021)

Kappa Delta Pi Induction Ceremony Fall 2021



During the Fall of 2021, Kappa Delta Pi welcomed thirteen new inductees into its Alpha Theta Xi Chapter. Welcome Ana Acatecatl, Noor Abdelaziz, Isabella Adamo, Deanna Barrera, Kristina M. D’Arpa, Allison Hough, Davina Rose League, Arlette Leon, Grace Roiland, Julianna Sandman, Demi Spirou, Jennifer Thompson, and Elaine Zevallos. A special thank you to Priya Gurcharan (far left), our guest speaker for the night and an integral member of Kappa Delta Pi. She completed her undergraduate degree at SUNY Old Westbury in the School of Education with a degree in Childhood Education, Grades 1-6. As a student, she decided that our college needed to represent and honor the Education students at SUNY Old Westbury, so she inquired about Kappa Delta Pi. After much planning and organizing, the first KDP induction ceremony was held in April 2017 – which is when the Alpha Theta Xi Chapter was born. Priya Gurcharan graduated from SUNY Old Westbury in December 2017 and began her first teaching position in Queens at a New York City Public School. She is currently in her 5th year of teaching at the elementary level, and she will graduate from the University at Albany with her master’s degree in Childhood Literacy this year.

Congratulations Priya Gurcharan!

*An SOE collaboration with School District Partners
spearheaded by Dr. Darrisaw-Akil and Dean Sukhram*

IT'S OUR TIME: A CONVERSATION WITH BLACK WOMEN IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP



‘SISTER SUPES’ LEND THEIR EXPERIENCE AND ADVICE TO NEXT GENERATION OF TEACHERS DURING THE SOE’S WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

The unique challenges and opportunities faced by African American women in public school leadership, the powerful impact they have on students, and the changes that might lead to more opportunities for advancement among those who follow them, were the key topics covered during, *“It’s Our Time: A Conversation with Black Women in School Leadership,”* a public forum held recently by the School of Education at SUNY Old Westbury. A recurring theme of the evening centered on having a passion for the field.

“In teaching, you just touch the future,” said Dr. Lorna Lewis, superintendent of the Malverne Union Free School District. “When former students tell me they remember my lesson, I know I’ve touched the future.”

Lewis was joined in a panel discussion by Dr. Monique Darrisaw-Akil, superintendent, Uniondale Union Free School District; Regina Armstrong, superintendent, Hempstead Union Free School District; Dr. Deborah Wortham, superintendent, Roosevelt Union Free School District; and Dr. Tahira Dupree Chase, superintendent, Westbury Union Free School District. The panel was moderated by April Francis-Taylor, director of diversity, equity and inclusivity, Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Along with the local educational leaders, the event included remarks by Dr. Lester Young, Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents.

“It’s our belief in New York State that you can’t be what you can’t see,” said Chancellor Young about the need to continually enhance diversity in the teaching profession. “The presence of these leaders here this evening is proof that there is no one story to follow to success.” Nearly 150 students, alumni, and employees at the College attended, along with community members representing school districts from throughout the metropolitan New York area. The event was held as part of the College’s Women’s History Month programming.

“Our mission in the School of Education is to prepare teacher candidates who value human diversity and exemplify an appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge and for learning as a lifelong process,” said Dean Dr. Diana Sukhram. “Introducing our students to these strong, accomplished superintendents provides a real-world glimpse at the professional and personal characteristics and dispositions they will need to succeed as educators.”

The 90-minute discussion among the members of this self-titled group of “Sister Supes” covered a wide range of topics, ranging from mentorship and leadership to the COVID-19 pandemic and improving equity among differing schools.

Dr. Lewis called for more diverse representation on school boards. “We have to have boards of education willing to accept people of color,” she said, noting that often people of color are appointed in leadership only at districts where the majority of students are of color. “I think people need to see excellence in all colors.”

Regarding equity, Dr. Darrisaw-Akil pointed to the classroom as the greatest test on the issue.

“Equity starts and ends with what our students are getting in our classrooms,” said Dr. Darrisaw-Akil, who along with being a superintendent is a trustee of the Old Westbury College Foundation, Inc. “Every day, critical decisions are made that impact policy, students, and their families. We have to start to unpack who makes those decisions and whose voices are being heard, so that we can be sure that all students get the attention, care, and quality they deserve when they are in our schools.”

Each panelist also offered their own piece of advice to the aspiring teachers and professionals in attendance.

“Take care of your wellness before you have to take care of your illness,” said Dr. Dupree Chase. “You are a better leader, better educator, and better at everything when you have balance.”

Quoting an oft-used scripture, Dr. Armstrong said “To thine own self, be true. Don’t let anyone deter you from being the best person you can be.”

“Shine your light,” said Dr. Darrisaw-Akil. “Our children need to see authenticity so free yourself from what other people think a teacher or superintendent is supposed to be and be yourself.”

Dr. Lewis reminded the audience that “you can only become accomplished at something you love.”

And Dr. Wortham wrapped up the evening by reminding all in attendance that professionalism, strong skills, and self-belief most often rule the day. “You have to know who you are and *whose* you are,” she said. “Self-confidence leads to effort; effort leads to success.”

About the School of Education

SUNY Old Westbury has been providing teacher education programs since 1975. Accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation, the School of Education seeks to prepare teacher candidates to be literate and progressive citizens who value human diversity and exemplify an appreciation of knowledge and learning as a lifelong process. The College boasts more than 3,000 alumni with undergraduate degrees in education. Currently, some 550 students are studying in the 19 undergraduate and graduate degrees offered through the School’s Adolescence Education, Childhood Education and Literacy, and Exceptional Education and Learning departments.

Students' Reactions to It's Our Time: A Conversation with Black Women in School Leadership.

"I am proud to say as a woman of color, a Latinx, I have these beautiful strong women as inspiration, and to show how I can aim higher. My mentor is also a Superintendent and she retired in January due to COVID, Dr. Constance Evelyn. I told her how inspired I was and wish she was on the panel as well." - **Janet**

"It was extremely motivating and powerful. It gave me a sense of faith that my journey to achieving everything I set my mind towards is possible!" - **Billy**

"I truly enjoyed the presentations especially the encouraging messages from the presenters. They were uplifting and heartfelt." - **Catherine**

"Hearing from the superintendents was nothing short of inspiring. As a future young black Educator, it was amazing to see women who look just like me stand in their power. They also gave me even more drive to finish my goal of becoming an educator."
- **Alexandra**

"Thank you so much for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come to our school and inspire us. As a young black woman pursuing a career in education, at times, it can be easy to struggle with a sense of belonging and self-doubt when I often find that many of my peers do not look like me. However, hearing all of your words of wisdom and experience truly filled me with courage to persevere and know that I am fully deserving and worthy of the space I take up in the education community. Thank you so much!" - **Anastasia**

Students' Reactions Continue...

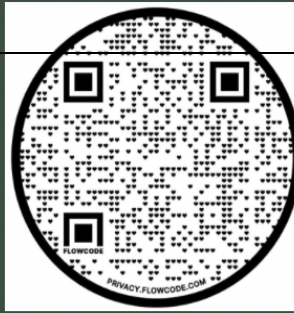
"The Conversation with Black Women in School Leadership event was truly inspiring. I felt the passion and emotion in the room amongst these astounding women. Seeing how much they truly love their job made me proud to be a black woman pursuing a professional career. It is not every day that I see women in high positions who look like me. This event, and more events like this, are crucial for students of color."- Jaelynn

*"Attending the conversation with the Superintendents had a great impact on me as not only a black woman but as an older student. The words that were spoken, spoke to my soul, and God wanted me to be there to receive the encouragement and energy that these powerful woman emitted. I am often judged for going back to school, seen as the stereotypical black woman, loud, ghetto, and uneducated. I am not a caricature of what others who do not know my story may think that I am. After hearing these women speak, I know I am supposed to educate the youth. I feel it in my heart and in my spirit, and as it was stated to me on that day, it is a calling. Those sisters lifted me up and only helped to solidify my place in education because they made me feel like I belong. Yes, I am black, and sometimes loud but I am also educated, and armed with life experiences that are not traditional, proving that you must follow your dreams, have a plan, an execute on that plan. It is never too late as long as you are breathing. I want to give that same feeling to a child that may not feel that he/she is not enough. My job is not only to educate the minds of young children but their spirits as well, giving them the love, support, and encouragement that they need to know and understand, that they are enough. So, thank you for arranging that meeting and thank you for having the wonderful supportive staff The love and encouragement that I have received from these wonderful people is almost unreal, because they have been so kind, encouraging, and supportive. I am blessed to be taught and mentored by such amazing people, who actually care and love their craft. In closing, it was a wonderful event, and I pray you do this event every year, because you never know who it can touch". - **Sa'Rita***



**Council for
Exceptional
Children**

The voice and vision of special education



**Check out our Instagram!
@cecoldwestury**

Who We Are:

The Council for Exceptional Children is an international community of professionals who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to improve, through excellence and advocacy, the education and quality of life for children and youth with exceptionalities and to enhance engagement of their families.

Membership:

1. Go to the website www.cec.sped.org
2. Click the Membership" tab at the top of the screen.
3. Click the "New CEC Member- Join CEC now" link at the bottom of the page.
4. You can read through the membership page, or click on the right hand side, "Join now" and this will bring you to the CEC application.
5. Begin to fill out the application. When you come to the section marked "unit" click NY
6. For the section marked "Chapter" click "SUNY Old Westbury****This is an important step! If you do not choose OW, our records will not show that you have become a member

Continue with the application, as well as the payment process. There is a chapter code that will give you a student discount. We will disperse that upon your interest in membership.

If you have any questions or problems, please email us for assistance.

The SUNY OW CEC Board

Deanna Barrera, President: dbarrer2@oldwestbury.edu
Davina League, Vice President: dleague@oldwestbury.edu
Gabrielle Soffer, Public Relations: gsoffer@oldwestbury.edu
Rachael Espinosa, Secretary: respino3@oldwestbury.edu
Elaine Zevallos, Treasurer: ezevall2@oldwestbury.edu
Rebecca Johnson, GA Contact: rjohns44@oldwestbury.edu

Benefits:

Join CEC and get the professional development, resources and peer-to-peer support you need to meet today's new challenges in special and gifted education with confidence and make a difference for children and youth with disabilities and gifts and talents.

Cutting-Edge Journals:

- TEACHING Exceptional Children: actionable and useful articles to teach and administer programs for children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents (6 issues/year).
- Exceptional Children: original research on the education and development of children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents in practical terms that you can bring into your classroom (4 issues/year).

Books and Resources

- CEC's publications cover the entire agenda of social, legal and educational issues of children with exceptionalities. Members receive up to a 30% discount!

Professional Development:

- CEC Annual Convention & Expo, peer networking and leadership opportunities, CEC Career Center, AND MORE!

Zoom Information:

Meeting ID: 857 731 7528

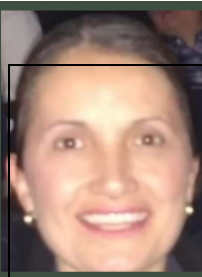
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Spring 2022 Meeting Dates:

February 23, 4:30pm

March 14, 5:30pm

April 20, 5:30pm



Dr. Gilic, Faculty Advisor

"My start in special education came from a personal side. I am a product of special education and all four of my children received special education services, so it is something I've been involved with my entire life. Working in special education and teaching at OW is my vocation. So much more than just a job. Now I am fortunate to work with an amazing group of women to further the Old Westbury CEC student chapter. Come to our meeting and you can see for yourself what everyone raves about. You won't be disappointed!"



Deanna Barrera, President

"I decided to go into special education because of a gratifying experience I had working as a counselor at a camp. There was an individual within my group, which consisted of ages 3-4, who had varying needs and an aide who helped him through his day. Because of him, I began to realize how amazing it was to see children like him feel included and capable of anything. I want to pay this forward and make a difference in other children's lives, just as him and his aide did for me. I joined the CEC last semester as a member, who was just curious as to what this organization entailed. I was so grateful to find a place to come to and meet people who had the same mindset that I did. Overall, it has been a positive experience and I cannot wait to spread the love and further advocate for the field of special education!"



Davina League, Vice President

"From a young age, I always knew that I wanted to become a special educator. My grandmother, Mema, was a foster mom to 4 men who had special needs. Mema and those men, my uncles, helped to raise me, teach me, and shape me into the person that I am today. I got into the field of special education because I want to follow in my Mema's footsteps and make a difference in as many lives as I can within this community. I decided to join the CEC to connect with other people who are passionate about working with individuals with disabilities, to learn, and also to make a difference in the lives of others."



Gabby Soffer, Public Relations

"Ever since I can remember I have always wanted to be a teacher. I have always had a special place in my heart for students with disabilities. I worked with kids who have autism throughout my time in high school and from that point forward I knew I wanted to be a special educator! I am so excited to have joined this amazing group!"



Rachael Espinoza, Secretary

"I chose to be in this club my first year at SUNY Old Westbury because I love helping children as much as I can. Everyday, I have the opportunity to work with children with many different learning disabilities from ages 2 all the way to 12 years old including being a one on one with a child with special needs & it is truly amazing watching the children grow academically and socially when receiving the right help each and every day. I want these kids to receive the help and education they need and deserve and this club is definitely a way to do it."



Rebecca Johnson, Student Government Liaison

"Growing up, I had a learning disability that made me have trouble processing the information I was being taught. This learning struggle made me be considered as a special needs student. Through the teachers that I've had they've all had an impact on me, making me both a better student and person. I wanted to become a special education teacher because I wanted to hopefully make an impact on my future students like my teachers had on me. I also wanted to be an advocate for children and get them the proper resources they need. I joined the CEC because I wanted to learn more about my future career and get more experience as well as make a difference in my community."



Elaine Zevallos, Treasurer

"It has always been a lifelong dream of mine to make a difference in a person's life. I'm hoping through my career as an educator that I can achieve this dream of mine. I decided to become a special education teacher after witnessing and being inspired by the teachers I've work with through the love and passion they have for their students and the classroom. I'm beyond excited to be apart of this club and hope that I can connect with others who share the same passion as mine on advocating and making a positive difference for all students with disabilities."

SOE TEACHER EDUCATION CLUB IS BACK!

The Teacher Education Club (TEC) hosted its first event of the spring semester, a workshop on teacher certification. Dr. Hsu and Dr. Schneider led the presentation giving an overview of the certification exams needed for the Childhood, Adolescent, and Special Education degree programs. They discussed the test frameworks, sample questions, and how and when to register for these exams. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and learn study tips.

The TEC is running a book drive to support The Book Fairies, an organization that collects reading materials for people in need throughout metropolitan New York. The reading materials foster literacy and academic success, provide a respite from personal struggles, and nurture a love of reading across age groups. Please donate books in our bins located in the Campus Center. Books will be collected from March 28th through April 5th.

Books we can accept:

- All age level books (0-adult)
 - In GOOD condition
 - 20 years old or less
- SAT/AP/Regents Test Prep books (<5 years old)
 - College level textbooks (<10 years old)

Books we CANNOT accept:

- Religious books, encyclopedias, magazines, calendars, CD-ROMs, DVDs
 - Books in poor condition (i.e., torn or missing covers, stains, etc.)

TEC members will be volunteering at the Book Fairies Warehouse in Freeport on Friday, April 29th, where they will spend the day sorting through donated books for the warehouse's distribution. They will also be volunteering at the Westbury Public Library, offering homework help to students in grades K-8 on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-6:00.

Additionally, the club is hosting a workshop entitled "*Interviewing 101 for New Teachers*" by Ariel Adrian via Zoom on April 18th from 2:40-3:40PM. This workshop will contain a comprehensive overview of the Long Island/NYC Educator interview process and is tailored for new teachers.

Meet Our Adjuncts!



*Dr. Oneil Eastmond
Adjunct Professor
Adolescence Science Field Supervisor*

Growing up on Long Island, I had just one dream; to get an education and to become a Medical Doctor or to teach secondary school science and go on to obtain a Doctorate. Luckily and happily, I fulfilled that dream. SUNY College at Old Westbury provided the first opportunity to fulfill the first leg of my journey. In 1982, I graduated with my degree in Biological Science. From 1985-2016, I worked as a middle and high school science teacher, Districtwide Science Chair and High School Science Chair for Westbury Public Schools. During that time, I also worked three summers as a science teacher in the STEP Program at SUNY Old Westbury. With more than 31 years of experience, it is nice to culminate my career working where I began - at SUNY Old Westbury! As an Adjunct Adolescence Science Student Teaching Professor, I am passionate about enhancing, protecting, and growing the brand and reputation of the program. Like the STEP Program, teaching provides me the opportunity to play a critical role in helping our students to succeed and grow and to become great secondary science school educators.

April 2022

Dr. Sheilah Jefferson-Isaac
Adjunct Professor
Childhood Education & Literacy

Dr. Sheilah Jefferson-Isaac is currently serving as an Assistant Principal at Northern Parkway Elementary School in Uniondale, New York. With over thirty years as a professional elementary school educator, Dr. Jefferson-Isaac brings a unique perspective that helps bridge Childhood Education theory to everyday practices. Her guiding educational philosophy has always been to empower students to become independent, creative, confident, and critical thinkers. In fact, Dr. Jefferson-Isaac's favorite motto and social media hashtag, #learningisjoyful, reminds us that school should be filled with joyful learning experiences. This semester, she is excited to join the SUNY Old Westbury adjunct team and is creating joyful learning experiences with her ED 5930 Childhood Education Seminar class.



"I am so honored and humbled by the warm reception I have received as first semester adjunct. I look forward to collaborating with other faculty in the School of Education to ensure that the Seminar experience exceeds expectations".

April 2022

Dr. Barry E. McNamara
Adjunct Professor
Childhood Education & Literacy

I have extensive experience teaching on the college level. Most recently, I was the Associate Dean and Professor of Education in the School of Education at Concordia College, Bronxville, NY. Unfortunately, the college closed in June 2021. I am the author of nine books (three have been translated and published in Korea, China, and Japan) and numerous articles. I received my doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University in Special Education: Learning Disabilities. I consult with schools and provide Professional Development on a number of topics, including ADHD, Learning Disabilities, Co-teaching, and Bullying. My most recent book deals with bullying and students with disabilities and I am currently working with school districts on the development and implementation of DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) to ensure compliance. Additionally, I am researching and writing on issues related to bullying during the pandemic and recently had an article published on that topic.

I feel fortunate to be an Adjunct at SUNY Old Westbury-School of Education and I am thoroughly enjoying the experience. The students have been engaged and enthusiastic and everyone has been so welcoming.

Did I mention that I am a grandpa?



SOE ALUMNI UPDATE



The stars on the map above illustrate where some of our 2020-2021 alumni are working.

We recently reached out to our students who graduated in 2020-2021 to see how they were doing. They are working in public and private schools across Nassau County, Suffolk County, New York City, Westchester, and out of state.

Long Island school districts employing our 2020-2021 graduates include: Baldwin, Bay Shore, Carle Place, Freeport, Half Hollow Hills, Hempstead, Herricks, Huntington, Roosevelt, Roslyn, South Huntington, Syosset, Valley Stream, and Western Suffolk BOCES. Additionally, five graduates are working in New York City public schools.

UPCOMING SOE EVENTS!

SUNY OLD WESTBURY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Presents ...

**Let's talk Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in
Education!**



Speaker: Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents, Lester W. Young, Jr.

"...I am committed to ensuring educational equity for all of New York's students," he says. "But we must move beyond the rhetoric and begin to rethink our existing systems of education so that all children have a real chance for success in life. Our collective response requires an approach that is comprehensive, coherent, and based on sound pedagogy."

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

In-Person on Campus-233 Store Hill Rd, Old Westbury, NY 11568
Room: Multi-Purpose Room in the Student Union Building

April 2022



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRESENTS SCHOOL-BASED LECTURE SERIES

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGY ACROSS CONTENT AREAS

The presentation will focus on culturally responsive pedagogy as it relates to teaching for social justice across content areas mainly mathematics, writing, and special education.

 **APRIL 27, 2022**

 **2:40 - 3:40 PM**

 **ZOOM**

Speakers

DR. BLIDI STEMN

DR. ELIZABETH MORPHIS

DR. JULIO GONZALEZ

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Register on Zoom by scanning the
QR code to the left.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

AAQEP

Association for Advancing
Quality in Educator Preparation



Calling All SOE Student Teachers



SOE Professional Development Day



Mandatory for all Spring 2022 Student Teachers

When: May 6, 2022

Time: 9a.m. - 3p.m.

Where: Student Union MPR



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Shawn Rux
RUXway Inc.: <https://www.ruxway.education/>

Workshop presenters include: Faculty, Adjuncts, P-12 District Partners, and SOE Alumni

Lunch will be provided

SOE Meetings!



Faculty, Adjuncts & Staff Meetings
In-Person @10a.m. NAB 1119

February 4, 2022

March 4, 2022

April 1, 2022

June 1, 2022

SOE Annual Retreat - June 1 & June 2

Follow us:



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SUNYOW_SOE@Oldwestbury.edu

*Newsletter Brought to you
by
Carolyn Jarvis*

*Editors:
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