



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

Fall 2017

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION



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Created by Megan Wells, Graduate Assistant



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Chair of the Exceptional Education Department



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Associate Chair of Graduate Programs



Dr. Shannon Budin
Associate Chair of Undergraduate Programs

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Fall 2017 edition of the Exceptional Education Department's newsletter. A lot has happened in the Department since our last newsletter. In addition to our many exciting projects that you will read about, we also had a number of changes in our faculty.

This semester, two faculty members announced their retirements and join our strong emeriti ranks, Dr. Michaelene Meger and Dr. Warren Gleckel. Both individuals have been instrumental in ensuring that our programs produce strong, effective teacher candidates. Their daily, dynamic contributions and dedication to the Department will be missed. Dr. Meger began her retirement in August 2017, and Dr. Gleckel will begin retirement in January 2018. We would like to thank them for their contributions to the Exceptional Education Department, and we look forward to potentially working with them in their new emeriti capacities.

Additionally, Dr. Kevin Miller, who is currently serving as Interim Dean of the Graduate School, is officially transitioning into administration. He will begin a 3-year term as Dean of the Graduate School beginning June 2018. We look forward to continuing to work with Dean Miller in his new capacity.

Finally, this semester, Dr. Gliset Colón began her new tenure-track position in our department as the recipient of the SUNY Diversity Fellowship. Dr. Colón has been very active this semester, and as you will read about in this newsletter, she is poised to make significant contributions in our Department—just like those who came before her.

On behalf of the Exceptional Education Department, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year. I hope you enjoy reading about all of our exciting happenings in the Exceptional Education Department. To receive more up-to-date information, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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DR. MILLER PROMOTED TO DEAN OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

We would like to congratulate Dr. Kevin Miller on his promotion from Interim Dean to Dean of the Graduate School!

Recognition continued on page 9.



The mission of the Exceptional Education Department is to prepare teachers, scholars, and action researchers as exemplary leaders, and to advance the profession of special education through the science and art of teaching, learning, and collaborating. Our graduates will contribute to the community by serving the needs of persons with disabilities and by broadening the general population's understanding and appreciation of individuals with disabilities.

VISIT US ON THE
WEB:
exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu

HORACE MANN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: DEEMED A SUCCESS

This semester, Buffalo State hosted another annual Dr. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium held on Saturday, December 2nd in the Classroom Building on campus. Students proudly shared their master's projects with colleagues as well as the Buffalo community.



The campus and city of Buffalo's community had the pleasure of listening to keynote speaker, Dr. Tim Zgliczynski, share and present his cooperative learning research and findings from the Kagan study. Other colleagues who contributed to this research and who were recognized at the Symposium were Dr. Larry Maheady, the Horace Mann

Endowed Chair in Exceptional Education; Dr. Sherri Weber and Mrs. Patty George, both faculty members of the Elementary Education and Reading Department; and Abdullah Abdulrahmann, a doctoral student from UB.

An alumni of Buffalo State College (2002, 2005), Dr. Tim Zgliczynski has over 16 years of experience working in elementary inclusion classrooms. He currently holds New York State

certifications in elementary education (K-6) and special education (K-12) and has earned Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees in special education. Dr. Zgliczynski is currently a full-time fourth-grade teacher in the Lancaster Central School District where he serves as a data coach and conducts research on evidence-based practices in inclusive classrooms. For the past eight years, he has also been an adjunct faculty member for the Exceptional Education Department at Buffalo State College teaching both

graduate and undergraduate courses in supporting students with disabilities in inclusive settings. His professional interests focus on technology-based classroom interventions and universally designed strategies that support all learners in inclusive settings.



At the end of the symposium, students were awarded with certificates as recognition of their hard work and research examining practical tips on what works in the classroom.

~Congratulations, graduate students, on your many accomplishments!~

PRESENTERS

- Sara Basior
- Krystal Broderick
- Rachel Chamberlain
- Megan Dolphin
- Hilary Fiegl
- Sarah Fleming
- Emily Giess
- Kristen Goodrich
- Amanda Gravius
- Ellen Kagals
- Gloria Lassiter
- Kim Mitchell
- Aaron Mullins
- Michelle Phillips
- Michelle Watrous
- Kristen Zells

We invite you to join us for the Spring Symposium on May 5th, 2018. Keynote speaker Dr. William L. Heward, Professor Emeritus in the College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State University, will present on his research that includes "low-tech" methods for increasing the effectiveness of group instruction in inclusive classrooms, adaptations of curriculum and instruction in inclusive classrooms, and adaptations of curriculum and instruction that promote the generalization and maintenance of newly learned knowledge and skills. This talk will suggest actions special educators can take to ensure their hard work translates into higher quality of life for the students they serve.

DR. RAIMONDI RECOGNIZED FOR EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP

This semester, Dr. Sharon Raimondi was named the **2017 Lifetime Achievement Award winner for Decades of Leadership**, the highest honor awarded to an individual, on behalf of the Executive Board and the members of the NYS Council for Exceptional Children. Dr. Raimondi has been recognized for the extraordinary work she does for students with disabilities, their teachers, and the future leaders of the field.

She was acknowledged and honored at the NYS Council for Exceptional Children conference on October 20th at the Double Tree Hotel in Binghamton. Dr. Kevin Miller, Dean of the Graduate School, introduced Dr. Raimondi at the luncheon as he shared, "She willingly shares credit for joint accomplishments. It is never about Sharon! Instead, it is always about what is best for those she engages, whether it be children, teachers, doctoral students, or colleagues."

~Congratulations Dr. Raimondi on all your hard work and outstanding accomplishments!~



JANCZAK'S RTI PROJECT BRINGS HOPE

By the time a fourth-grader falls behind his or her classmates, catching up becomes a difficult and labor-intensive task. That's why the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) initiated the New York State Response to Intervention Technical Assistance Center, or NYS RtI TAC.

"RtI is a schoolwide prevention/intervention framework that seeks to prevent a child's learning problems from becoming insurmountable learning gaps," said Theresa Janczak, associate professor of exceptional education. "Prior to RtI, schools relied on a 'wait to fail' model before a student received additional support."

Janczak has been the director of the NYS RtI TAC since its inception. Janczak received initial, five-year funding in 2008 for the purposes of providing indirect technical assistance and professional development to the NYS schools on topics related to RtI. The initial work of the TAC also involved a five-year demonstration project with 14 elementary schools that served as pilots for an elementary RtI process. Recently, NYSED entered into a memo of understanding with Buffalo State to continue the work of the TAC and initiate a RtI demonstration project with 15 middle schools across the state.

Three-Tier Model Identifies, Aids Students at Risk

"Before RtI, a student had to fail substantially in order to qualify for added assistance," said Janczak. "Within an RtI process, students are provided supplemental support at the first sign of struggle. NYSED requires all public schools in the state to have an RtI process in place for all students in grades K through 4 in the area of reading."

A key feature of an RtI process, universal screening, takes place three times per year. The purpose of identifying those students who are performing below grade-level benchmarks. Universal screening involves the administration of several measures that are predictive of reading achievement. It is a quick assessment procedure designed to identify students who may be at-risk for academic failure. In recent years, schools have capitalized on the use of computers to make the screening process more efficient.

A typical universal screening task may involve having the student orally read a short passage for one minute. The number of words read correctly is recorded and compared against a normative sample. If a student's performance falls below a predetermined cut point, supplemental intervention is provided. Once a student begins receiving additional support, his performance is monitored on a regular basis to determine if he is responding to the extra help. Results from universal screening cannot only identify students who may need additional support, but may be used to assess the efficiency of a school's core reading program. "Ideally, 80 percent of students should be able to meet benchmark levels," Janczak said. "If only 40 percent of students are performing at benchmark or grade level, schools are encouraged to evaluate the appropriateness of their core program."

Another key feature of an RtI process involves multi-tiered intervention, which is typically and graphically depicted as a three-tiered pyramid. The bottom of the pyramid represents Tier One or core instruction which is provided to all students in a school. Tier One is considered the first line of defense against academic failure and should also be effective for about 80 percent of the school population. For students who are performing below grade level, supplemental support in the form of Tier 2 intervention is provided in small groups of 4 or 5 students. "It's important to understand that Tier 2 is considered supplemental and does not supplant Tier 1 or core instruction," said Janczak. "That is, students who are considered at-risk will continue to receive Tier 1 or core instruction in addition to Tier 2 support." At the top of the pyramid is Tier 3, which is also supplemental but reflects a much more intensive type of intervention since students who require this type of support have significant and multiple needs.

New Demonstration Project Includes Middle Schools

This year, a demonstration project began in 15 selected middle schools across New York State. The demonstration project involves working directly with each middle school's RtI leadership team to design and facilitate a multi-tiered intervention process that includes support in English Language Arts, mathematics, and behavior. A small cadre of faculty and practicing building administrators, NYS RtI TAC consortium, provide direct, on-site technical assistance and professional development to an assigned middle school on a monthly basis. "Seventy-five schools applied for this project, but our resources could only support 15," said Janczak. "We are hoping that information and lessons learned from this project will benefit other schools in the state who are looking for ways to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of all middle school students."

Retrieved from <http://exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu/news/buffalo-state-experts-janczak-heads-statewide-response-intervention>



CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN TESOL



As the population of culturally and linguistically diverse students grows, there is a higher demand for qualified English language teachers. SUNY Buffalo State and the Exceptional Education Department are excited to now offer students the opportunity to complete a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The CAS requires completion of a New York State teacher education program leading to a college recommendation for Initial Certification in a core area such as early childhood, childhood, or secondary education. Candidates must also complete 12 credit hours of study in one language other than English. Candidates can complete the CAS while pursuing their Master's Degrees. If you would like more information, please contact, Dr. Awilda E. Ramos Zagarrigo at ramosza@buffalostate.edu. You can also find information on the following link: <http://exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu/teaching-english-speakers-other-languages-tesol-certificate-advanced-study>

FACULTY PROFILE: DR. ANGELA PATTI

Angela Patti, assistant professor of Exceptional Education, is a master teacher who actively engages students in learning and truly cares about their success. Dedicated to continually learning and evolving as an educator herself, she serves as an exemplary model for teacher candidates. Patti is known to develop strong relationships with her students and advisees and stays connected with many of them in their subsequent academic and professional careers.

In her time at Buffalo State, Patti has prepared or co-prepared eight education courses and five field experience or student teaching courses. The diversity and number of courses she has prepared or taught demonstrate her deep knowledge of the discipline. Moreover, her participation in a co-teaching pilot shows her willingness to explore new teaching techniques to best meet student needs. She also excels at developing and offering supplemental learning experiences for students. As a leader in the International Professional Development Schools program, she has led two student trips to Chile, delivering life-changing experiences for students.

Patti is involved in a variety of professional and scholarly activities. While at Buffalo State, she has published seven articles in peer-reviewed journals and served as a co-editor for a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal on evidence-based practices. She has also delivered 23 professional

presentations at the international, national, state, or local level. She has skillfully linked her scholarship to her teaching activities, developing an expertise in co-teaching and implementing powerful international experiences for teacher candidates.



She is highly engaged at all levels of service, including chairing college committees, serving the community as an adviser for the pilot expansion of the New York State Master Teacher Program in the area of special education, and volunteering at the Explore & More Children's Museum's special program for children with autism and their families, "Au-Some Evenings." Her passion, professionalism, and tireless devotion to students and colleagues make her an integral member of the department.

Retrieved from: <http://newsandevents.buffalostate.edu/news/faculty-and-staff-recognition-ceremony-october-5>

IPDS GAINS GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES THIS SUMMER IN CHILE

In May and June of this year, nine Buffalo State students and three faculty members travelled to Santiago, Chile for the International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) Chile program. The Exceptional Education Department was well-represented with five undergraduate teacher candidates: Claire Borczuch, Onnika Clarey, Christine Garas, Rachel Kedzierski, and Katie Welch; one graduate teacher candidate, Liz Brocki; and two Exceptional Education faculty members, Dr. Angela Patti and Dr. Raquel Schmidt.

The three-week study away program is designed to give teacher candidates the opportunity to develop global perspectives in relation to education, as well as a better understanding of working with students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The participants studied Spanish in an immersion program, lived with Chilean host families, conducted educational research, participated in field experiences in Chilean schools, and engaged in a variety of cultural activities. They also had the opportunity to explore sites in and around Santiago, including a hiking excursion in the Andes Mountains.

You can learn more about their experiences by reading participant blogs at <http://buffalostateipdschile.weebly.com/blogs.html>. The IPDS Chile program will run again in spring of 2019. Meanwhile, please search out other IPDS opportunities by visiting <http://schoolofeducation.buffalostate.edu/ipds>.



Top: Taking in the beauty of the Andes Mountains
Bottom left & middle: Students working with children in Chilean schools
Bottom right: Students present about education in the U.S. to an audience at our partner university in Santiago, Universidad Mayor

BEST BUDDIES AND CEC HAVE AN EVENTFUL FALL

Best Buddies. Fall semester was in full swing for the members of Best Buddies. They participated in many campus activities such as the annual Buddy Match party, a murder mystery game night, and the homecoming parade. Additionally, members enjoyed sharing new experiences in the Buffalo community with their buddies by going to the Buffalo Zoo, bowling at the Kenmore Lanes, and participating in the 11th annual Buffalo Polar Plunge that supports the NYS Special Olympics.

CEC. Members of CEC have been busy volunteering in the Buffalo community. Students of Buffalo State, as well as students from D'Youville College and UB enjoyed working together and volunteering at several Au-some Evenings at the Explore & More Children's Museum. Explore & More is dedicated to giving children with Autism Spectrum Disorders an opportunity to play and learn together in an understanding and supportive environment. CEC has collaborated with the Best Buddies on many occasions with events such as decorating the float for the homecoming parade and plunging into the waters of Lake Erie at Woodlawn Beach.

Buffalo State Team Raises Thousands for Special Olympics

For the eleventh straight year the Exceptional Education Department, Buffalo State Best Buddies and Student Council for Exceptional Children were "Freezin' for a Reason" to raise money for the New York Special Olympics. This year's "Polar Plunge" was held at Woodlawn Beach in Hamburg, NY on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017. While the weather was mild, it was a wild and crazy, fun event and a great way to show our Buffalo State colors! Team Orange Crushers registered 41 plungers, raised \$3,474 and once again won Best College Team. MacKenzie Elliott chaired the event with help from Tucker Fuller and Megan Schrader. Thank you to all of the plungers and those who supported them by donating.



Top left: Best Buddies have a ball bowling at Kenmore Lanes. Top middle/right: Best Buddies celebrate their new friendships at annual Buddy Match party.



Middle Row: Best Buddies & CEC show their Buffalo State school spirit by dressing in black & orange and decorating their float for this year's homecoming parade!



Bottom 5 photos: BSC students and faculty members celebrate winning top college at the annual Polar Plunge event!

FAREWELL TO DR. GLECKEL



As Dr. Warren Gleckel prepares for retirement in January 2018, we would like to acknowledge his great work and efforts in the Exceptional Education Department. Dr. Gleckel stated, "I came to the field of special education from the vantage point of seeking social justice for individuals with disabilities."

Since he has been a part of our Department for the last 43 years, Dr. Gleckel has been an outstanding associate professor, department chair and college administrator working to better our program and prepare students to become strong, dedicated, and successful teacher candidates. We have been very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable role model for our Exceptional Education students, and he will be greatly missed.

~The Department wishes Dr. Gleckel all the best in his future undertakings!~

THE 22ND ANNUAL RECOGNITION & AWARDS CEREMONY

The 22nd Annual Recognition and Awards Ceremony for the Exceptional Education Department was held on Thursday, November 16th in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall. We honored a large group of award recipients who were recognized for their many accomplishments.

**Congratulations to all the awardees!
We are proud of all of your hard work
and dedication.**

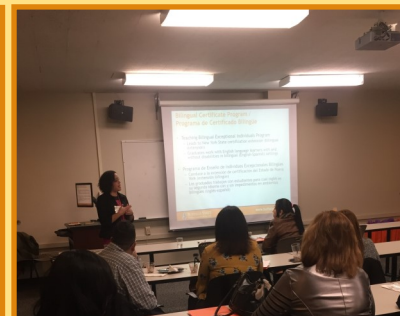
AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Amelia Dick
- Allan Sesay
- Claire Borczuch
- Jaclyn Robbins
- Christine Garas
- Megan Schrader
- Onnika Clarey
- Victoria Walizada
- Kathryn Diminuco
- Kaitlyn Schmidt
- Marilyn Wang
- Nicole Sapienza
- Marisa Clark
- Ikhia Moore
- Devon Holler
- Alyssa Klaffka
- Lucas Bridenbaker
- Alek Alan David Ralls
- Trenton Kelkenberg
- Declan Maloney
- Amber Harris
- Sara Zapalowski
- James Roberto
- Elizabeth Brocki
- Catherine Welch
- Brianna Matheis
- Alan Louis
- Miles Woode
- Mary Bradley
- Kathleen Brown
- Sarah Braun
- Theresa Bietka



BUFF STATE RECRUITS NEW TEACHERS FROM PUERTO RICO

Buffalo State College and the School of Education welcomed new teachers recruited from Puerto Rico at the Teacher Reception held on Monday, November 6th in the Butler Library. Dr. Gliset Colón, coordinator for Bilingual Certificate Program and Assistant Professor in the Exceptional Education Department who is also Puerto Rican, dedicated her time and effort to arrange the reception and welcome the new graduate teacher candidates in order to provide them with valuable information including Pathways to NYS Certification and necessary coursework to be completed.



The candidates had the pleasure of listening to the welcoming remarks from Provost Perreault and Dean Paterson. Perrault and Paterson extended their gratitude to the new teachers and expressed their excitement for them to bring strength, new experiences, and cultural aspects to the schools and students in the Buffalo area. Additionally, new recruits were introduced to faculty members in the School of Education. Other presenters at the Teacher Reception included: Ms. Patty Recchio, the Teacher Certification Officer, who provided new teachers with an informational session about obtaining NYS Teaching Certificates, Dr. Colón who presented the Bilingual Certificate Program requirements, and Jamie Warren, the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources for the Buffalo Public Schools, who provided teacher candidates with financial aide and tuition reimbursement options.



We are honored to have these new teachers from Puerto Rico to represent Buffalo State's School of Education. Of special note, one of our own graduate students in the Exceptional Education Department, Lawrence Ramos Miranda, a native of Puerto Rico, joins this cohort of teachers and will also be pursuing his bilingual certificate. They will be working in various bilingual schools in the City of Buffalo. We know these teachers have sacrificed so much to come here and have been separated from their close friends and family at such a sensitive time after the devastating destruction from Hurricane Maria on the island of Puerto Rico. Thank you again to the new teacher recruits from Puerto Rico who have joined our School of Education team! We are thrilled to have you and know you all will be strong assets to our campus as well as our city schools.

Many thanks to Dr. Colón and Dr. Schmidt, coordinators of the Bilingual Certificate Program, for making this opportunity possible; thank you to Dr. Rafferty and Ms. Patty Recchio who brought to bear their experiences in order to make this an efficient transition for the new teachers from Puerto Rico.

Buffalo State College and the City of Buffalo welcomes the new teacher recruits. We wish them the best and cannot wait to hear about their academic journeys and teaching successes!

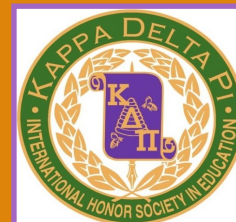


Pictured (clockwise from top left): Dr. Colón and the new teachers from Puerto Rico; Dr. Colón presenting on the Bilingual Certificate Program; Ms. Patty Recchio discussing the Pathways to New York State Certification; Dean Wendy Paterson welcoming the teachers to Buffalo State; Provost Perreault giving welcome remarks to new teacher recruited from Puerto Rico.



KAPPA DELTA PI

Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) is an international education honor society with an active chapter here at Buffalo State College. Our chapter, Gamma Mu, has been active in sharing professional development opportunities with future teachers, as well as opportunities for service projects. This year, we have several ways that education honors students can get involved. We already completed one service project where several students volunteered at the Children's Book Expo in Buffalo, NY on November 11. On December 2nd, KDP and other campus chapters participated in the Polar Plunge event, benefitting the Special Olympics followed by opportunities to help out at the Teacher's Desk – where teachers shop free for students in need.



A small group of KDP members have also “adopted” a classroom in Houston, TX impacted by the recent hurricane and whose teacher has Buffalo roots. We had a video call with the class on November 2 where they enjoyed asking us questions about Western New York, and we will be taking them on a virtual field trip soon! The Exceptional Education Department has been very active in KDP since it is co-advised by Dr. Budin and two of the officers are majors in our program (Mackenzie Elliott and Nicole Sapienza). In addition, our very own graduate assistant, Megan Wells, is vice president. For more information about KDP, contact Dr. Budin at gormlese@buffalostate.edu



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SUMMER INITIATIVE EMPOWERS BUFFALO'S YOUTH

Over the summer, Dr. Gliset Colón, Dr. Jevon Hunter, the Woods Beals Endowed Chair for Urban Education, and Ms. Tiffany Nyachae, a lecturer for the Elementary Education and Reading Department, collaborated to design an engaging educational academy hosted at Buffalo State for adolescents of African or Latino decent within the Buffalo area. More than 40 high school students from Western, NY between the ages of 14 and 18 enrolled and participated in this powerful 5 week course. Colón, Hunter, and Nyachae organized activities that engaged students in action research. The main question explored was “What is it like to live, learn, and love as a young person of color in Buffalo, NY?”



Dr. Hunter worked with the young men to complete a project that focused on the idea of identifying cultural wealth. The students read the novel *The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy's Journey Into Manhood* in order to map community assets in their lives by sharing their own experiences with social capital, aspirational capital, and other forms of capital. At the end of the course, the young men wrote powerful memoirs about their lives growing up in Buffalo as children of color.

Moreover, Ms. Nyachae worked with the young women to read, write, and act from Black feminist perspectives. These sessions began with gaining an understanding of the sociological bases of the lived experiences of girls of color through unpacking terms, such as patriarchy, capitalism, and intersectionality. The students read seminal

and contemporary literature on feminism. The students also read the novel *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi in order to understand the connection of Black folks across the diaspora. Moreover, the young women shared how the “Privilege Walk” activity helped them to better understand how they each experience intersectionality. Their understanding of Black feminism and other sociological frameworks was evidenced in their writing and discussions.



Lastly, Dr. Colón worked with the large academy of young scholars as they participated in what Colón liked to call *Teatró* where students would use their bodies and language to convey their experiences growing up as children of color in the Buffalo area. Students would listen to scenarios and reflect on particular challenges a person of color experiences in society. One of the main themes of *Teatró* was critical consciousness and the students engaged in rich dialogue about topics related to their education and society at large. Colón incorporated written work into this course by having the students write micro poems related to these topics.



This academic opportunity allowed these young men and women to get the full campus experience. This program contributed to “demystifying what it is like to go to college in a more concrete and obtainable way,” Dr. Hunter explains.

Additionally, 3 of Buffalo State's very own undergraduate students were teaching assistants (Yocasta Mencia-Exceptional Education; Ja'Quona Renfro- English Education; and Sharquon Ceasier- History and Social Studies Education) who contributed to the Research Academy as they assisted in teaching, working with the young students, and collecting research data.

EX ED FACULTY CONTRIBUTES TO DOING PDS BOOK

Congratulations to our colleagues in the Elementary Education and Reading Department for publishing their collaborative text on Professional Development Schools (PDS) titled *Doing PDS: Stories and Strategies from Successful Clinically Rich Practice*.

Special kudos to Drs. Kathy Doody and Angela Patti, Assistant Professors in Exceptional Education, for their contributions to the book! They wrote the following book chapters:

- ◆ Preparing Special Education Teacher Candidates: Meeting Challenges Within a PDS Framework, *Dr. Angela L. Patti*.
- ◆ Low Cost/High Impact Path to Intercultural Competency: The Example of IPDS Chile, *Dr. Angela L. Patti and Dr. Pixita del Prado Hill*.
- ◆ PDS in Exceptional Education Teacher Prep Programs: Everyone Wins! *Dr. Kathy R. Doody*.

~Congratulations to you all!~



Doing PDS

Stories and Strategies from Successful Clinically Rich Practice

Edited by:
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A volume in the series: [Research in Professional Development Schools](#). Editor(s):
 JoAnne Ferrara, *Manhattanville College*. Janice L. Nath, *University of Houston*.

Published 2017

Retrieved from <http://www.infoagepub.com/products/Doing-PDS>

TEACHER EDUCATION DIVISION CONFERENCE



Several Buffalo State Exceptional Education faculty members traveled to Savannah, Georgia for the Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference in November where they presented their research, shared best practices, and networked with other teacher educators from across the country. Drs. Patti, Maheady, and Budin presented an interactive paper sharing highlights about the new undergraduate program development titled: *Using High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) to Inform Program Revision*.

Furthermore, Dr. Maheady presented a paper entitled *Effects of Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures on the Math Performance of Students with and without Disabilities*, that was co-authored by Dr. Tim Zgliczynski and Abdul Alsheri, a doctoral student at UB. Finally, Dr. Kathy Doody presented *I ditched my textbooks and liked it!* This focused on Open Educational Resources and provided resources for using no/low cost materials in place of pricey textbooks for course work. Dr. Doody also presented on the *Collaboration Across Disciplines: What Can Special Education Teachers Bring to the Party?* This focused on how to increase collaboration across disciplines so that teacher candidates experience opportunities to work with other students, such as psychology or Speech-Language Pathology majors in providing services to children with disabilities in authentic settings. This presentation also discussed embedding service learning opportunities with children and families into coursework and assignments.

THE DEPARTMENT'S EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

Dr. Kevin J. Miller joined the Exceptional Education Department faculty at Buffalo State in 2006 and was then appointed chair in 2008 where he served until 2015. As a devoted and ambitious professor, chair, and now Interim Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Miller strives to continue the proud tradition of assisting and working with teaching candidates to guide them in becoming effective and influential educators.



Earlier this semester, the Provost announced that Dr. Miller was being promoted to the Dean of the Graduate School for a 3 year term beginning on June 1, 2018. She noted that the change in status is recognition of his exceptional work and respective role as the Interim Dean.

~Congratulations Dr. Miller!! We wish you the best and know you will be an outstanding leader for the Graduate School.~



The Exceptional Education faculty would like to thank all the students and professors for their hard work to make this another successful and productive semester!