



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York

Spring/Summer 2018

# EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION



facebook.com/  
buffalostateexed



bsc\_exed

*Created by Megan Wells, Graduate Assistant*

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



**Dr. Lisa A. Rafferty**  
*Chair of the Exceptional Education Department*



**Dr. Raquel J. Schmidt**  
*Associate Chair of Graduate Programs*



**Dr. Shannon Budin**  
*Associate Chair of Undergraduate Programs*

Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of the Exceptional Education Department's newsletter. As you will read, it's been another busy semester in the Department. The candidates, faculty, and alum from our programs are positively impacting the lives of children in many places throughout our nation and the world! In the fall, we will be welcoming a new member to our Department, Dr. Andrew Hashey, who will help us continue to make these positive impacts!

With the end of the academic year winding down, I have been reflecting on my term as Chairwoman in Exceptional Education Department, which is ending in August. I am thankful for the opportunity I had to serve in this capacity and appreciative of all the hard work everyone has contributed to the extraordinary initiatives and programs we support through our Department. I am extremely proud to be apart of this community of educators, and I look forward to continuing to work as a member of this awesome faculty in the fall.

Next year, Dr. Raquel Schmidt will assume the role of Chairwoman in the Department. With over 10 years of experience as Associate Chair for Graduate Programs, Dr. Schmidt is poised to make many more contributions to the Department. We're thankful for her willingness to serve, and we look forward to her leadership in this new capacity.

On behalf of the Exceptional Education Department, I would like to wish you a happy, healthy, and safe summer. We look forward to potentially seeing you at a department event this fall!

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

The Exceptional Education Department would like to congratulate both our undergraduate and graduate teacher candidates on their hard work and the accomplishment of earning their bachelor's and master's degrees! It has been a pleasure working with you and being a part of your educational and teaching experiences. We are proud of your constant dedication to your studies, and we look forward to hearing about your future successes.



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](http://exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

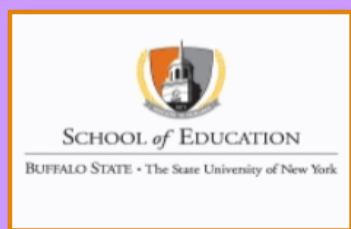
Houston Student Teachers	2
Research Symposium	3
DISES Student Representative	4
New EX ED Faculty Member	4
CEC Convention	5
Dr. Maheady Recognition	5
Sons & Daughters Event	6
Pathways Program	6
Best Buddies & CEC Reports	7
Chair Shares Techniques	8
Kappa Delta Pi	9
BPS Collaborations	9
Faculty Profile: Dr. Doody	11
Transition Program	10
Awards for Career Excellence	12

Exceptional Education Department  
Ketchum Hall 204-Buffalo State College  
1300 Elmwood Avenue-Buffalo, NY 14222  
Phone: 716-878-3038; Fax: 716-878-5410

## HOUSTON STUDENT TEACHING OPPORTUNITY CONTINUES TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Buffalo State has partnered with the Houston Independent School District (HISD) to provide unique opportunities for teacher candidates to teach in Houston, Texas (SUNY TEX). Candidates are paired with outstanding cooperating teachers, expand their education with an authentic experience focused on cultural and language diversity, and jump-start their careers and skill sets as educators.

Our very own undergraduate student, Brianna Matheis, recently completed student teaching in HISD at Red Elementary School. Additionally, three Buffalo State graduates have joined the HISD faculty. Bronwen Leahey and Stefani Caie graduated May, 2017 with degrees in Exceptional Education, and Brianna Ware graduated December, 2016 with a degree in Elementary Education.



We are proud to partner with HISD and will continue our efforts to support our Texan colleagues and Houston residents affected by Hurricane Harvey. Thank you to all those who have donated! To learn more about this student teaching opportunity, email Dr. Christopher Shively, the HISD program advisor: [shivelct@buffalostate.edu](mailto:shivelct@buffalostate.edu)



*Teacher candidate, Brianna Matheis, celebrates her last day with her students from Red Elementary.*

## STUDENT LETTERS BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO HOUSTON



During the holiday season, 55 pen pal letters were written and sent to spread holiday cheer to our Exceptional Education Houston teachers: Bronwen Leahey, Stefani Caie, and Brianna Matheis. Their Exceptional Education colleagues, teaching in Buffalo, taught a “Lesson About Houston” and the tragedies Hurricane Harvey caused in order to help students understand why they were writing the letters. Many students explained how Houston and Puerto Rico have similar needs.

These supportive letters from the students and teachers of the Buffalo schools brought joy to Bronwen and Stefani during the disasters from the tragic hurricane. They greatly appreciated the children’s kind thoughts and creativity.

## HORACE MANN SPRING SYMPOSIUM

The Spring 2018 Dr. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium was held on Saturday, May 5 in Rockwell Hall. There were 36 Exceptional Education Graduate Students who showcased their master's projects. These projects involved the design, implementation, and reporting of research studies responsive to the needs of individuals with disabilities. Research topics ranged from "Effects of the Good Behavior Game on the Behavior of Middle School Males with Disabilities in a Self Contained Setting" to "Examining the Effects of a Self-Monitoring Intervention with a Tactile Prompt on the

On-Task Behaviors of Students with Learning Disabilities."



Presenters and guests had the pleasure of listening to Keynote Speaker, Dr. William L. Heward, Ed. D., BCBA-D, a Professor Emeritus in the College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State University where he has helped trained special education teachers for 30 years.

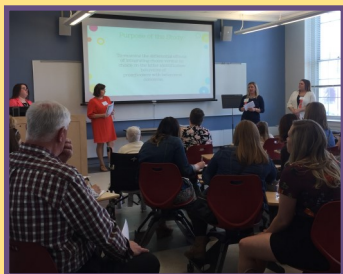
### Presenters

Amanda Beardi	Maureen Remus	Sara Zapalowski
Richard Beck	Brett Lyford	Matthew Brick
Samantha Maishak	Michael Perozzi	Christopher Castren
Nicole Sapienza	Danielle Smerda	Amanda Goble
Odessa Fraser	Yvette Nagle	Rebecca Hopkins
Yvette Mason	Kaitlyn Schmidt	Elizabeth Goodman
Jaclyn Robbins	Victoria Walizada	Jamie Hriczko
Edward Gallio	Claire Bellavia	Heather Koch
Caitlin Mack	Elizabeth Brocki	Kellie Magle
Elena Krawczyk	Jaclyn Corsaro	Ikhia Moore
Kylie O'Connell	Rebecca Chilson	Cassandra Partridge
Megan Hull	Amelia Dick	Meagan Ryerse

Dr. Heward has been a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Portugal, Visiting Scholar at the National Institute of Education in Singapore, Visiting Professor of Psychology at Keio University in Tokyo and the University of São Paulo, and has given lectures and workshops in 21 other countries. His publications include the textbooks *Exceptional Children: An Introduction to Special Education* (11th ed., 2017, with Sheila Alberman and Moira Konrad) and *Applied Behavior Analysis* (2nd ed., 2007, co-authored with John Cooper and Tim Heron), which have been translated into numerous foreign languages.

Awards recognizing Dr. Heward's contributions to education and behavior analysis include the *Fred S. Keller Behavioral Education Award* from the American Psychological Association's Division 25, the *Ellen P. Reese Award for Communication of Jacobson Award for Contributions to Behavior Analysis* from the New York State Association for Behavior Analysis. A Past President and Fellow of Association for Behavior Analysis International, Bill's research interests include "low-tech" methods for increasing the effectiveness of group instruction inclusive classrooms and adaptations of curriculum and instruction that promote the generalization and maintenance of newly learned knowledge and skills.

***Congratulations, graduate students! It was a pleasure to see all the hard work you put into your research projects over the year.***



Photos complimentary  
of Bruce Fox Photography

## DISES ELECTION RESULTS FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

University at Buffalo and Buffalo State College have provided doctoral candidates with a unique Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education. This program is a nationally recognized Center of Excellence that provides leadership on all levels to prepare and support practitioners who serve schools and children in high needs districts. This exciting program trains future faculty to use modern information, communication, and learning tools to improve the preparation of teachers and increase student outcomes. Doctoral students have the opportunity to learn how to deliver content in technology-rich instructional environments and to use technology to enhance clinical experiences .



This year, the DISES Executive and Elections Committees appointed one of the Joint Doctoral Program scholars, Abdullah Alshehri, as their new DISES Student Representative. Abdullah is from Saudia Arabia and has graduated with his bachelor's degree from Taif University in special education with a concentration in deaf education. Additionally, he has experience teaching students with hearing impairments who were included in public schools. After teaching for a while, Abdullah exclaimed, "I realized there was something missing in the system regarding educating those brilliant students and that a chance to learn more about educating students with special needs in an inclusive setting will fulfill my desire of improving the current situation of social education in my country." Currently, he is enrolled in the Joint Doctoral Program as a graduate student working on his PhD studies.

Along with being appointed as the new DISES Student Representative, Abdullah was presented with the 2017-2018 Anita G. and Herbert L. Foster Learning and Instruction Scholarship. This scholarship was established to support promising students pursuing degrees in literacy and special education.

Abdullah's leadership talents will be a tremendous asset to DISES and its mission. We wish him the best as he begins this new journey as the new DISES Student Representative. Congratulations, Abdullah, on the fine work you have done in your doctoral program thus far!

For more information about the Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education visit the website:  
<http://gse.buffalo.edu/org/sped/default.html>

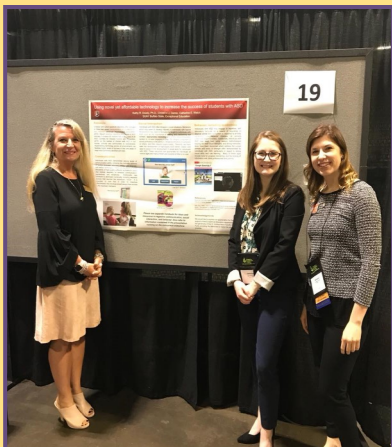


## THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBER

The Exceptional Education Department would like to welcome Dr. Andrew Hashey, new assistant professor, to Buffalo State! Dr. Hashey graduated with his Master's in Exceptional Education from Buffalo State College and enrolled in the Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education at the University at Buffalo where he later received his doctoral degree. For the last few years, Dr. Hashey has been an assistant professor of Exceptional Education and Learning at SUNY Old Westbury in Long Island, NY where he has taught courses ranging from Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions for Students with Disabilities to Effective Practices for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities. We are very excited to have Andrew as a member of our exceptional faculty and Department. Welcome back to Buffalo State, Dr. Hashey!!



## CEC NATIONAL CONVENTION AND EXPO IN TAMPA, FL



**Above** (left to right): Dr. Kathy Doody (BSCCEC advisor), Katie Welch (BSCCEC Vice President), & Christine Garas (BSCCEC President) presenting their research on how to use novel yet affordable technology to increase the success of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 2018 Annual Special Education Convention and Expo was held on February 7th-10th in Tampa, FL. Five of our CEC student officers—Claire Borczuch, Kaeley Biondo, Katie Welch, Christine Garas, and Carlie Mogavero—presented their research and findings from class projects. The Convention is a professional development event for all educators to join in the opportunity to attend sessions focused on the critical knowledge and skills educators need to help students succeed inside and outside of the classroom. Additionally, the Expo allows members to learn more about topics such as behavior management, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), collaboration with co-teachers, and career development.

To join CEC, contact the advisors:

Dr. Kathy Doody  
doodykr@buffalostate.edu

Dr. Angela Patti  
pattial@buffalostate.edu

To attend the next CEC Convention & Expo, visit the website:  
<https://cecconvention.org>



**Above** (left to right): Katie Welch, Christine Garas, Kaeley Biondo, Carlie Mogavero, & Claire Borczuch.  
**Below** (back row): Dr. Patti, Dr. Doody, Dr. Raimondi, Dr. Maheady, Dr. Pomerantz, Dr. Colón, Dr. Budin  
(front row): Carlie Magavero, Claire Borczuch, Kaeley Biondo, Christine Garas, & Katie Welch



## DR. MAHEADY SELECTED TO RECEIVE TEACHER EDUCATION AWARD

This year, Dr. Lawrence Maheady was selected to receive the Teacher Education Division (TED)/Pearson Excellence in Teacher Education Award for 2018! This is one of the highest international honors given to those whose career achievements have made a profound impact on the field of teacher preparation in special education.

Dr. Maheady is Professor and Horace Mann Endowed Chair in the Exceptional Education Department. He prepares pre-service and in-service teachers, conducts classroom-based research, and collaborates with school districts locally and nationally. Additionally, he has authored or co-authored over 90 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 12 book chapters, and two books. Dr. Maheady has also presented his work at over 200 international, national, and state-level conferences; and conducted more than 300 staff development sessions in 29 different states.

Dr. Maheady was presented the award at the CEC National Convention on February 8th at the Marriot Waterside Hotel in Tampa, FL.

~ Congratulations, Dr. Maheady, for receiving this well-deserved award!



## BUFF STATE HOSTS: TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

This semester, Buffalo State College hosted the 25th anniversary of the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day Program on Thursday, April 26th, 2018. This program inspires young students at the elementary and middle school levels to dream big and learn about various career options. Students and their parents had the opportunity to attend special events on campus such as exploring the Planetarium, participating in story time at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, joining a Career Development Center Workshop, and learning about the many different modes of Assistive Technology tools that students with disabilities can use to communicate.

Dr. Budin and Dr. Doody conducted the Assistive Technology session in Cleveland Hall and presented the young students, from ages 5 to 14, with many devices to experiment with that can help students with disabilities communicate. Thank you to all the students, faculty and staff for your participation and making this annual event so fun and successful!



*(Left): Students listen to a read aloud at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore.*



*Students experiment with iPads to create stories using the applications iMovie and Story Teller.*



*Dr. Doody demonstrates how to use BIGmack Communicators.*



*Dr. Budin helps students work with QuickTalker to communicate with each other.*



*Photos complimentary of Bruce Fox Photography*

## THE PATHWAYS PROGRAM BENEFITS STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lea Hill Elementary, Auburn School District in Auburn Washington has designed a Pathways Program for grades 3-5 in order to incorporate social-emotional and behavior skill lessons into the students' daily routine. Candace Wall is the Pathways Intermediate Teacher at Lea Hill and a Buffalo State alumna from the Exceptional Education Graduate Program. In her classroom, Candace practices study skills, executive functioning skills and self-management with her students throughout the day. She chose to decorate her classroom with Buffalo State College logos in order to expose her students to higher educational opportunities and possible career choices.



Lea Hill Elementary is working towards becoming a NEU (No Excuses University) school where college bound behavior is constantly being reinforced throughout the school. Ms. Wall has college talk lessons once a week where conversations about college take place including the social skills aspect that helps gives the kids the confidence they are able to achieve it for themselves. Every Thursday is "Think Ahead College Thursday" where Lea Hill kids are encouraged to dress in college colors and gear.

The Pathways Program was developed in 2014 with the vision of developing safe, caring, engaging and collaborative learning environments and build partnerships and practices that prioritize students' social-emotional, academic, and future skill development. The program strives to build partnerships between school, families and community to meet the complex needs of special education students with significant social-emotional and behavioral challenges. Furthermore, the program is built from an intervention model seeking to provide a continuum of care of evidenced-based intervention for students as well as a special education service delivery model supporting direct and on-going individual student programming needs.



## BEST BUDDIES & CEC CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Best Buddies.** Spring semester brought many fun events and experiences for Best Buddies. Members enjoyed traveling to Rochester, NY and joining other Best Buddies chapters across New York State to attend the annual Friendship Diversity Ball as well as the International Friendship Walk. In addition to attending off-campus events, members participated in various campus events such as the Best Buddies Pool Party, the Inclusion Flag Football Showcase, and an annual Spread the Word Campaign. Best Buddies collaborated with members of CEC to sponsor "Spread the Word to End the Word," a campus-wide initiative to eradicate the use of the word "retard." Members who attended the event had the pleasure of listening to the Inspirational Speaker and Professional Musician, Sujeet Desai. He is an active member of Best Buddies and a self-advocate with Down Syndrome. Sujeet travels the world giving solo performances and leading self-advocacy workshops to increase awareness of Down Syndrome internationally. Many students and campus faculty came to the campaign to sign the banner and bring awareness to this nationwide movement. At the end of the semester, Best Buddies and CEC wrapped up the semester with a closing ceremony and celebrated all of their new friendships and accomplishments this academic year.



**Top left:** Members of Best Buddies at the International Friendship Walk in Rochester, NY.

**Top right:** Twenty-four members of Buffalo State Best Buddies traveled to Rochester for the Best Buddies Diversity Dance that was held at Nazareth College. Many dressed in 80's attire to match the theme of Friendship Through the Ages.



**Middle 5 photos:** Members and advisors of Best Buddies, CEC, and College Based Transition Program celebrate their accomplishments this academic year with a special visit from President Conway-Turner!



**Left:** Members of CEC and Best Buddies celebrate Spread the Word Night of Inclusion!

**Right:** Students sign the banner and spin the wheel to win prizes.



**Bottom left:** Inspirational Speaker, Sujeet Desai, poses next to the signatures of the Buffalo State community committing to "Spread the Word to End the Word."

**CEC.** The CEC chapter has been busy on and off campus this semester. In addition to co-sponsoring the Spread the Word Event, members of CEC hosted an Agency Fair and Panel Discussion in Bacon Hall. Agencies such as Developmental Disability Alliance of Western New York (DDAWNY) and Parent Network of WNY joined the members of CEC to discuss their missions and the services that they provide to individuals with developmental disabilities and other special needs and their families. Representatives presented on a panel and responded to questions about the agencies. Moreover, the chapter continues to volunteer at Au-some Evenings at the Explore & More Children's Museum that are dedicated to giving children with Autism Spectrum Disorders an opportunity to play and learn together in an understanding and supportive environment. CEC and Best Buddies would like to thank everyone who made this another great and successful year!

## DR. RAFFERTY SHARES SELF-REGULATORY BEHAVIOR TECHNIQUES WITH NEXT GENERATION TEACHERS



Over the past 25 years, public schools have shifted from placing students with disabilities in self-contained classrooms with little or no interaction with peers without disabilities to integrating them into general-education classrooms. Studies show this more inclusive approach results in fewer absences and better post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities. However, students with emotional and behavioral disabilities (EBD) are still educated in self-contained classrooms at a higher rate than students in any other disability category. One of the primary reasons is because teachers lack the skills to effectively and proactively respond to their behavioral needs, said Dr. Lisa Rafferty, Chair and Associate Professor of the Exceptional Education Department.

“Children with emotional and behavioral disabilities are the most isolated and have the lowest graduation rate of all students,” said Dr. Rafferty, who also teaches in the Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education with the University at Buffalo. One way to ensure better outcomes for these students is to help them learn how to self-regulate their behavior. This is an area in which Dr. Rafferty has focused her research and now relays to the next generation of teachers. “My goal is to ensure that our teacher candidates are not just developing skills to monitor and modify student behavior, but that they also have the skills to help teach students how to self-regulate their own behaviors,” she said. “This is what they are going to need to function and thrive in society.”

Self-assured with a disarming smile, Dr. Rafferty has carved out an impressive academic career over the past decade. Since joining the Buffalo State faculty in 2008, she has received two prestigious awards—the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching (2013) and the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching (2015). She’s made numerous presentations at the local, state, and national/international levels and is published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Journal of Behavioral Education*, *Childhood Education*, *Applied Behavior Analysis in Practice*, *Teaching Exceptional Children*, and *Beyond Behavior*.

Early in her career, Dr. Rafferty had an epiphany of sorts. She was teaching middle school students with EBD in a local day treatment school—without any training in behavior management. “I decided that instead of struggling, I could become an expert in behavior management,” she said. “It’s really about using data to find evidence-based strategies to meet students’ needs.” She was awarded a fellowship to pursue her doctorate in special education, with a focus on EBD, from the University at Buffalo, which she completed in 2008. Dr. Rafferty and other faculty teach their students a three-tiered approach to instruction in K-12 classrooms. “The first proactive strategy works for about 80 percent of students while the other two, which include specialized and individualized instruction, are necessary for students with different needs,” Dr. Rafferty explained. Instilling appropriate classroom management techniques is key both to the success of their students and to their careers. “Lack of classroom management is one of the key reasons why teachers leave the classroom,” she said. “We want to teach our teacher candidates how to be proactive versus reactive.”

This concentration on providing practitioners with the tools to effectively meet their students’ behavioral needs and making authentic connections with children with disabilities are two reasons why school districts are eager to hire Buffalo State Exceptional Education graduates. Dr. Rafferty is currently working with local schools and parents to identify what skilled practitioners need to go out into the field based upon the needs of the students. What she knows for sure is that classroom teachers need to recognize the strengths of all students and continue to challenge them academically where they are. “If children are academically engaged in classroom learning,” she said, “they often don’t have the time or inclination to make poor behavior choices.”

**Written by Laurie Kaiser**

Retrieved April 23, 2018 from:

<http://exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu/news/buffalo-state-experts-rafferty-shares-self-regulatory-behavior-techniques-next-generation>



## KAPPA DELTA PI

The Kappa Delta Pi Annual Initiation Ceremony was held on March 1st at The Foundry in Buffalo, NY. Keynote Speaker, Dr. Keli Garas-York, Associate Professor of Elementary Education and Reading, led an interactive speech by sharing information about useful reading comprehension strategies. Eighteen new members from a variety of undergraduate and graduate education majors were inducted at the ceremony.



**Left:** Keynote Speaker, Dr. Keli Garas-York, presents her research and expertise on reading comprehension strategies.

### 2017-18 New Initiates

- Kassia Balus
- Alyssa Berkholder
- Allison Block
- Christine Garas
- Jessica Grear
- Maria Incorvia
- Katherine Kuchta
- Julie LaManna
- Emily Librock
- Jennifer Norton
- Amanda Quattlander
- Lauren Roetzer
- Janessa Sheridan
- Solera Sherry
- Andrea Tasevski
- Breana Walker
- Megan Wells
- Laura Wright



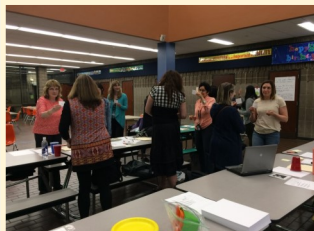
**Above:** KDP Officers (left to right) Nicole Sapienza, Graduate Student Liaison; Megan Wells, Vice President; and Mackenzie Elliott, President with their Faculty Advisor, Dr. Budin.



**Below:** New KDP members celebrate after initiation ceremony.



## EX ED PROVIDES FOR BPS RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS



Buffalo State College has had the pleasure of collaborating with Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) to provide teachers with the adequate training and strategies when working with students with disabilities. In May, BPS teachers attended a staff development day and had the opportunity to work with several of our exceptional faculty members. There were 150 educators comprised of Occupational Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Physical Therapists who service students in grades Preschool to 12th grade.



Ms. Judith Harris, a lecturer of Exceptional Education, volunteered to plan and prepare for the meeting to present the topic "Strategies and Techniques for Developing and Maintaining a Proactive Approach to Managing Student Behaviors." Faculty members Dr. Lawrence Maheady, Dr. Tim Zgliczynski, Dr. Kathy Doody, and Dr. Sharon Raimondi also presented during the breakout sessions and introduced various behavioral strategies such as "Managing Surface Behavior and Avoiding the Conflict Cycle," "Managing Students with Autism," and "Small Group Cooperative Strategies to Reduce Inappropriate Behaviors." During the breakout sessions, BPS teachers enjoyed practicing these strategies that they will be able to later implement in their classrooms.



## COLLEGE TRANSITION PROGRAM COLLABORATION WITH BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### College Transition Program

Sponsored by the Exceptional Education Department  
Buffalo State College



BUFFALO STATE  
The State University of New York

**Authors:** Lynne Sommerstein, M. Ed., Exceptional Education Department  
Mary Lou Vaughn, M.S. Ed. Co-Director College Based Transition Program

Manny is not a Buffalo State College student but you will see him in classes, in the fitness center, in the student union and participating in clubs on campus. Manny is a third year student in the College Based Transition Program at SUNY Buffalo State. The College Campus Based Transition Program, an initiative of the Buffalo Public Schools, SUNY Buffalo State, and People, Inc. is a comprehensive, non-degree, campus-based program for highly motivated young adults with developmental and other diverse learning needs. Transition Program students, all of whom have significant disabilities, have completed their education in local high schools, but are eligible for public school services until the age of 21. These students, who typically have received extensive special services, have a strong desire to continue their education with their same aged peers. A program administrator, special education teacher, teaching assistant, team leader, job coach, community-based instructor and many students from the college support them on campus as they sit in on classes, work at internships and participate in college life. The students' goals are to learn the skills they need to live, learn, work and play in their community.

The transition students sit in on courses with the support of degree program students ("study partners"). The classes are chosen with the permission of the professor and are strictly voluntary on the part of the professor. Staff from the Buffalo Public Schools and People, Inc. adapt curriculum and modify tests so students can work on their individualized goals in the context of a college class. Study partners help take notes, copy assignments and sometimes assist students in the class or during study sessions. The study partners are student teachers, independent study students, students fulfilling a volunteer requirement for a class or, sometimes, just students who are interested, dedicated volunteers.

As part of their vocational program, transition students work part time in jobs or internships to explore career options. Use of public transportation is encouraged. Safety, responsibility, good work habits and social skills are emphasized in all settings.

Our mission is to provide experiences for the intellectual and personal growth not only for the transition students, but also for everyone in the SUNY Buffalo State community. Our goal is to enrich the learning environment by nurturing diversity through the inclusion of people with disabilities in all facets of college life.

Manny is currently auditing a dance class with a service learning volunteer who is a matriculated Buff State student. His professor reports that he has "great physical intelligence" demonstrated through ballet, folk dance, hip hop, salsa and many other forms of dance expression. Manny, as you can see, also enjoys reading. Like everyone at Buffalo State, Manny is learning and growing in a diverse and supportive environment. For more information: [vaughaml@buffalostate.edu](mailto:vaughaml@buffalostate.edu)



Reprinted with permission from Steven's Spirit of Giving, Volume 1 p. 6, Spring 2018 Newsletter

## NYS TEACHER CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE SUPPORTS TEACHERS FROM PUERTO RICO



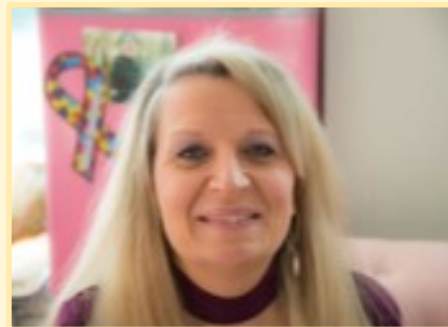
The School of Education at Buffalo State College has partnered with the Buffalo Public School District to facilitate the certification process for 8 newly recruited teachers from Puerto Rico. More specifically, Buffalo State is enrolling these teachers into graduate education programs and bilingual certificate program. Due to the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Maria, many families from Puerto Rico have emigrated to the mainland. With the large influx of Spanish speaking families arriving in the state of New York, the need for bilingual certified teachers is even greater.

The New York State Teacher Center Steering Committee (NYSTC) has helped to support our bilingual program and teachers from Puerto Rico by offering a mini-grant for the program to purchase 8 sets of textbooks required for the bilingual courses along with 8 tablets which will be loaned to teacher candidates' through the Far West Regional Network. We would like to thank the NYSTC Steering Committee for their support and generous offer to aid in our teachers' academic successes.

There will be an upcoming recruitment trip to recruit the next cohort of bilingual teachers. This collaboration between the college and Buffalo Public Schools will facilitate the process of obtaining highly qualified bilingual teachers for the Buffalo area.

## FACULTY PROFILE: DR. KATHY DOODY

Dr. Kathy Doody has been an assistant professor of Exceptional Education since 2012. She joined the Department after many years of being a special education teacher and an adjunct instructor. Dr. Doody's interest in pursuing a career in special education came shortly after she discovered her son, Kevin, was diagnosed with a form of autism when he was 14 months old. Dr. Doody was determined to take immediate action and begin treatment through early intervention and therapy services. Since then, Kevin has flourished in an educational setting that has given him the opportunity to take several mainstream courses. He is now 21 years old and enjoys experimenting with technology, specifically creating and editing videos.



Kathy completed her Master's Degree in Special Education at Buffalo State College and later received her Ph. D. from The University at Buffalo. She was eager to return to Buffalo State and work with the next generation of exceptional education teacher candidates to prepare them with the best practices for working with individuals with disabilities. As an active leader in service projects on campus and in the Buffalo community, Doody enjoys being a mentor for teacher candidates to provide them with various opportunities to work with individuals with exceptionalities and connect with people in the field of education.

Dr. Doody has arranged events at the Burchfield Penney Art Center and trained docents and graduate students how to work with and support students with autism. There were special sessions for graduate students to volunteer at the museum and interact with individuals with autism by presenting the artwork in an understandable way.

Dr. Doody serves as co-advisor to two student groups: Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC; 2013—present) and Best Buddies (2014-2018), and during that time, Dr. Doody has been amazed by the impact both chapters have had on the future educators and members of the community. She's been delighted to see participants promote awareness and be committed to improve the educational outcomes for students with special needs. In addition, Dr. Doody created the program, Au-some Evenings, in 2012 at Explore & More Children's Museum. Once a month, these special events give children with autism spectrum disorder and sensory disorder, with their friends and their family, an opportunity to play and learn together in an understanding and supportive environment. Since 2012, the program has expanded, the children's museum has added more activities such as Art, Music Therapy, structured and unstructured physical activity, and has provided therapy dogs for guests to experience and enjoy.

Furthermore, Dr. Doody is involved in a variety of professional and scholarly activities. In her time at Buffalo State, she has published seven articles in peer-reviewed journals and has collaborated with colleagues to publish two chapters in two different books relating to Professional Development School research and clinical practice working with individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Doody is passionate about her work in the field of autism spectrum disorders, and collaborating with educators, administrators, parents, medical professionals, and related service providers to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their full potential in home, community, and educational settings.

## AWARDS FOR CAREER EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Miller, Dean of the Graduate School, for receiving the 2018 American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES) Eagle Award! Dr. Miller has been a long-time member of the journal's editorial board as well as a member of the ACRES board of directors, treasurer, and chair of the organization. He will complete his current term on the ACRES board of directors this year, 2018.

*~ Congratulations, Dr. Miller, on this great accomplishment and well-deserved award!*



Congratulations to Dr. Shannon Budin for being recognized as one of CEC's 2017 Outstanding Reviewers for her premier, peer-reviewed, practitioner journal *TEACHING Exceptional Children*! She was presented the award on February 8th at the National CEC Convention in Tampa, FL. Dr. Budin provides a lot of professional service to the field by serving as a reviewer for a number of journals.

*~ Congratulations, Dr. Budin, on such a well-deserved honor!*

Dr. Gliset Colón was selected to receive the Early Career Award for Community Engagement Award from the Civic and Community Engagement Office (CCE)! Dr. Colón was recognized for her community engagement activities in the Bilingual Education Program, developing new relationships with Buffalo Public Schools, the cohort of teachers they hired from Puerto Rico, and her community-based research efforts this past year. She was presented with this award during the Buffalo State Celebration of Community Engagement on May 8th along with other individuals who are receiving awards for their participation in community engagement efforts.

*~ Congratulations, Dr. Colón, on this awesome achievement!*



This semester, Mrs. Lynne Sommerstein was selected to receive the Director's Advocacy Award from the Museum of disABILITY History! She was nominated for this award by Dr. Kathy Doody who wished to highlight Mrs. Sommerstein's leadership qualities, Western New York and Rochester, NY community involvement, and her many outstanding accomplishments throughout her career. Mrs. Sommerstein was recognized for efforts in creating programs for students and young adults with disabilities to facilitate socialization among same-aged peers, including the College Based Transition Program, Best Buddies, and Hand in Hand.

*~ Congratulations, Mrs. Sommerstein, on this well-deserved recognition!*