

INNOVATE.
ENGAGE.
TRANSFORM.



OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



2023
ANNUAL REPORT
2024

Rowan University
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



DEAN'S



MESSAGE

As we celebrated 100 years of educational excellence during the 2023-24 academic year, we in Rowan University's College of Education reflected on our past while working to address today's critical educational issues. Through this year's annual report, we invite you to follow our journey reflecting our theme, from "normal" to extraordinary.

Since our institution opened as Glassboro Normal School in 1923, it has developed quality educators across the state. The College of Education continues to lead the charge in addressing issues in New Jersey's P-20 educational system, including the teacher shortage, the lack of diversity in the profession and the need to build P-20 leaders and educational scholars.

We are proud to be at the forefront of these issues, deeply engaging in research and policy while committing to the hard work of leveraging how P-12 and higher education systems can be supported. We're deepening our impact through our efforts to innovate, engage and transform education throughout the state.

Specifically, our College is focused on strengthening partnerships with the communities we serve across South Jersey and beyond. We're taking the first strides toward increasing the number of Rowan-educated teachers in New Jersey schools from 6,000 to 10,000 by enhancing our already robust pipeline preparation programs and developing initiatives to allow educators to graduate debt-free.

By offering more academic options for current and future educators than ever before—having increased our offerings this year from 67 to 74—we're able to better serve our students' needs for specialized and interdisciplinary preparation. Further, through our faculty's hard work to secure grants and contracts that support their research, they are advancing the knowledge needed to address pressing issues in education.

Our Centennial year was memorable and inspiring. As we look ahead to our next 100 years of educational excellence, the future of education depends on our continued efforts to shape policy, overcome barriers to entry in the teaching profession and provide the academic offerings and professional development opportunities that the education field demands. With our focus on innovation, engagement and transformation, we're rising to the challenge of preparing the teachers and educational leaders of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gaëtane Jean-Marie". The script is elegant and cursive.

GAËTANE JEAN-MARIE, DEAN

A CENTURY

OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HAS TRAINED DEVOTED TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS SINCE 1923. FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY FROM “NORMAL” TO EXTRAORDINARY—OVER 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING.

1917
The state Board of Education announces that Glassboro will be the location for a new normal school to train teachers for South Jersey schools.

1922
Work begins on the normal school's first building, College Hall. Today, it's Bunce Hall.



1935
A four-year program is established leading to a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

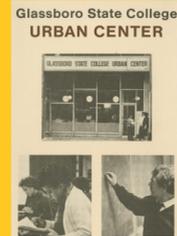
1937
The school's name is changed to the New Jersey State Teachers College at Glassboro. The name was often shortened to Glassboro State Teachers College.



1949
The college's first graduate curriculum is approved. It focuses on three programs: teaching of the handicapped; administration and supervision of elementary schools; and advanced work for elementary teachers.

1952
The college's first 15 graduate students graduate.

1954
The new Campus School opens with 265 youngsters. The school is considered to be the finest campus school of its kind in the country, serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade.



1969
The Camden Urban Center, later known as the Rowan at Camden campus, opens. It signals the beginning of the institution's long commitment to providing educational opportunities in the city.



1973
Robert D. Bole, former dean of the College of Education and, later, a beloved administrator, pens "More Than Cold Stone: A History of Glassboro State College, 1923-1973." The book chronicles the college's first five decades.

1974
The college receives one of six Teacher Center grants awarded nationally to colleges and universities. The grant includes funding for research, development and delivery of services to preschoolers with disabilities.

1997
The doctorate in educational leadership—the first offered by a New Jersey state college—enrolls its first students. In 2001, four students are among the first to earn their Ed.D. degrees.



2006
Education Hall, a \$28.5 million, 135,000-square-foot building, opens as the home of the College of Education. In 2012, the building is rededicated as James Hall to honor President Herman James.

The Early Childhood Demonstration Center opens to provide preschool education to children of Rowan students, employees and alumni. The center includes rooms for observation and research for students, faculty and parents.



2016
The college establishes Project IMPACT (Increasing Male Practitioners and Classroom Teachers), a program to increase the representation of males from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds in the teaching profession.

The University dedicates a new space for the Camden campus in the historic First Camden National Bank & Trust to double enrollment in the city.

A new Ph.D. program designed to educate scholars deeply committed to addressing persistent social justice concerns in education is launched by the college. Eight students are in the first cohort.



2022
More than 100 undergraduate education majors affirm their commitment to being educators at the college's first-ever Teacher Induction and Pinning Ceremony.

1923
Members of the first class of 236 aspiring teachers at Glassboro Normal School begin their coursework. Tuition is free.



New Jersey State Normal School
Glassboro
Commencement
June 26, 1924, at 10:30 A. M.
(Daylight Saving Time)
Gymnasium
(No Santa Hats After 10:30 O'clock)



1940
The Children's Clinic expands its services to children with a wide range of disabilities. The clinic's work establishes Glassboro as a respected leader in special education services.

1946
A new junior college program is established to serve veterans not interested in teaching careers. The program broadens the college's offerings to include engineering, business and liberal arts.

1947
A secondary school curriculum is added, giving students opportunities to teach fifth through eighth grades, as well as ninth-grade English, science and mathematics.



1958
The college's name is changed to Glassboro State College.

For the first time, the college achieves accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.



1962
Operation Uganda, a student-led initiative to support Uganda's independence from Great Britain, launches. Students collect 100,000 books and school supplies for Uganda and pledge to teach there as well.

1966
Esbjornson Gymnasium, known as "Esby," opens. It is named for Roland Esbjornson, one of the institution's original faculty and an innovative educational leader devoted to serving children with disabilities.

1992
Henry Rowan and his wife, Betty, make history with a \$100 million gift to the institution, putting it on an upward trajectory and inspiring other gifts.



2013
For the second time, Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education, names Rowan's Eta Psi chapter the recipient of the Achieving Chapter Excellence Award for exceptional leadership, programming and involvement.



2023
The Early Childhood Demonstration Center earns accreditation from the National Association of Young Children, a mark of excellence in the discipline.

The College of Education kicks off its year-long Centennial celebration during the 2023-24 academic year.

2024
The Men of Color Hope Achievers (MOCHA) program graduates its first group of 10 students. Funded by a Department of Education grant, the program helps men become certified teachers in New Jersey schools.

The College of Education teams up with the Camden school district to launch Teach Camden, a grant-funded program to help paraprofessionals in city schools become certified teachers.

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL



▲ Faculty and staff of the College of Education gather in front of the historic Hollybush Mansion during the college's Centennial Kickoff Celebration.



▲ Centurial, an original artwork by Rowan University Lecturer Adam Gustavson, was commissioned by the College of Education Centennial Planning Committee in honor of the college's 100th anniversary. The piece is currently displayed in James Hall.

Centennial Celebration kicks off at Hollybush

Throughout its yearlong Centennial celebration, the College of Education held 33 events, starting with the faculty, staff and friends kick-off social event & banner signing at Hollybush Mansion in September of 2023.

Attendees from other colleges across Rowan joined the celebration, where the highlight of the event was the unveiling of an original painting commissioned by the College of Education.

"It was an excellent opportunity for us to reintroduce the College of Education to the Rowan University community and give them a sense of our rich history and the work we're doing now," said Joanne Connor, senior associate dean for external affairs.

The Centennial celebration marked a milestone anniversary not only for the University but also for the College of Education.

"This college is truly the heart and soul of the University," Connor said. "The Centennial celebration was a reminder of what a critical component the College of Education is to everything that happens at our ever-growing institution."



I SMILE AS I THINK OF YOU
READING THIS AND WONDER
WHAT HIGHER EDUCATION WILL
LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE."

Gaëtane Jean-Marie
Dean



▲ Dean Jean-Marie captures the historic moment in a selfie with College of Education faculty.

"Centurial" painting commemorates 100 years of teacher training

To capture the spirit of its Centennial celebration, the College of Education commissioned "Centurial," an original painting by Adam Gustavson '96, an instructor in the Ric Edelman College of Communication & Creative Arts.

Gustavson chose to feature Bunce Hall from an off-center approach to avoid a perspective that seemed too rigid for "a school with such a constantly evolving identity as Rowan," he said. The painting includes a massive London Plane Tree that appears in photos from the building's original construction in 1922, an old-fashioned handbell, a belted stack of books, a globe, an apple and the black-eyed Susan flowers that inspired Rowan's school colors.

Inspiring Gustavson's work were Dutch still lifes of the 17th century, historical photos in the University archives and his own relationship with Rowan both as a student and an instructor.

"You'll never be so intimately intertwined with an inanimate object as when you're counting its windows, contemplating its brick patterns, really taking it apart and putting it back together with your eyes until you've gotten it right," he said.

Time capsule: Sharing today's College of Education with future students and faculty

Even while reflecting on the past, the Centennial celebration had the College of Education community focused on the future.

During the Annual College of Education Awards Ceremony in June, Dean Gaëtane Jean-Marie closed a time capsule meant for the Rowan community of 2074.

"I smile as I think of you reading this and wonder what higher education will look like in the future," Jean-Marie wrote to the eventual openers of the capsule.

The contents of the capsule included, among other items:

- > A print of the "Centurial" painting
- > A commemorative medallion and a handbell favor from the Centennial Soiree
- > The banner signed by attendees at the Centennial kick-off celebration in September 2023
- > Programs and pictures from each Centennial celebration event
- > Agendas and notes from the Centennial Committee's meetings, providing a behind-the-scenes look at the process of planning the celebration

"We wanted to focus on the Centennial celebration and what we did to celebrate 100 years of College of Education history," said Joanne Connor, senior associate dean for external affairs.

ALUMNI

ENGAGEMENT

Graduates join the College for Centennial celebration

Centennial events provided a unique opportunity for Rowan University and the College of Education to re-engage with alumni.

Centenarian alumna reminisces on the war years at Glassboro Normal School

At 100 years old, Ann Williams Henry returned to a campus that had changed drastically since she attended Glassboro Normal School from 1941-1945. Henry reflected on her classes, friends and extracurricular activities during the war years in an interview in celebration of Rowan's Centennial year.

"I had all different kinds of teachers," she said. "Some may have been stricter than others, some were a little more conversational, but I liked them all."

Henry worked throughout her education, eventually helping President Edgar F. Bunce's family with cooking and housework in Hollybush Mansion. Her activities during college included glee club, hockey, basketball and dancing. Although the draft had pulled most of the boys out of school by Christmas of 1941, "we girls got along fine," Henry said.

Henry graduated in January 1945 and began her career teaching elementary school children in a one-room school.

"I haven't wished for any other career," she said. "I really couldn't think of anything else I'd rather do."

Golden Profs Reunion welcomes graduates from 50 years ago

Alumni play a vital role in the evolution of today's Rowan University. In June, a group of alumni who graduated in 1974 or earlier spent the day steeped in nostalgia at the Golden Profs Reunion.

This year's event included shuttle tours of campus, a rooftop gathering at Engineering Hall, a planetarium show, a mixer and presentations from Dean Gaëtane Jean-Marie, University leaders and leadership of the new Edelman Fossil Park & Museum.

The Golden Profs Reunion has been an annual event since 2022, when it replaced the Golden Years Luncheon. Through the day-long series of events, alumni not only reconnect with each other but also impact the College of Education's future, according to Jean-Marie.

"When they visit, our Golden Profs share their experience and insights on what's needed today to address pressing educational issues," said Jean-Marie. "Their input informs the work we do here."

Golden Profs—alumni who graduated 50 years ago—return to campus for a special conversation with college leadership.



“

I HAD ALL DIFFERENT KINDS OF TEACHERS. SOME MAY HAVE BEEN STRICTER THAN OTHERS, SOME WERE A LITTLE MORE CONVERSATIONAL, BUT I LIKED THEM ALL.”

Ann Williams Henry '45



Three of the oldest living alumni of Rowan University return to campus. (Clockwise, from seated) Ann Williams Henry '45, Jean Eldridge Henderson '52 and Florida Causey Dixon '55.

CENTENNIAL

SOIREE



▲ Recipients of the inaugural College of Education awards at the Centennial Soiree include (from left) Alvin Herron '08, M'17 (Community Service Award), Keisha Stephenson-Taylor '98, M'00 (Outstanding Achievement Award), Thomas Gallia '66 M'67 M'70, (University Engagement Award).

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENT WAS THE RECOGNITION OF THE INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION'S ALUMNI AWARDS, WHO WERE NOMINATED BY ALUMNI AND THE COMMUNITY.



▲ Enjoying the soiree are (from left) Megan McHugh M'15 (at left) and Sarah Olsen M'14.

Celebrating in style

On a memorable evening last spring, more than 325 alumni and friends of the College of Education celebrated the Centennial in fine style.

Drawing inspiration from the specially commissioned "Centurial" painting, College leadership incorporated elements like old globes and stacks of belted books into their decoration of the Eynon Ballroom in the Chamberlain Student Center.

The soiree featured upscale foods and remarks from University leadership and the College's advisory board on the future of the College of Education.

Adding their names to history by signing a special soiree guest book are Rae '73 and Charles M. Walzer Jr. M'72.



The highlight of the event was the recognition of the inaugural recipients of the College of Education's Alumni Awards, who were nominated by alumni and the community.

Thomas M. Gallia '66 M'67 M'70, professor emeritus of Rowan University, received the Award for University Engagement.

Alvin M. Herron '08 M'17, head teacher at South Woods State Prison in Bridgeton, was recognized with the Award for Community Service.

Keisha Stephenson-Taylor '98 M'00, senior director of alumni and postsecondary engagement for national education non-profit NAF, received the Award for Outstanding Achievement.

"The Alumni Awards bring attention not only to the individual recipients but also to the College and to the greater University," said Joanne Connor, senior associate dean for external affairs.

Each attendee left the Centennial Soiree with a special keepsake: a traditional brass handbell emblazoned with the College of Education's Centennial seal.

Gathering to celebrate 100 years of educational excellence are (from left) Anthony Phillips '84, Chevelle Phillips '89, Lisa Westfield '95 and Chris D'Angelo '07, M'10.



NJEA

REUNION

During statewide teacher convention, a reunion of Profs

More than 100 Rowan-educated teachers gathered at the Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel in November 2023 for a special Centennial Reception held during the annual New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Convention.

Along with having the chance to network and socialize with colleagues and fellow alumni, attendees heard remarks from distinguished guests that included Dean Gaëtane Jean-Marie and a host of College of Education faculty and staff.

The NJEA Reunion was among the first Centennial events to expand the observance of the milestone beyond the internal campus community, bringing the celebration to an audience of alumni entrenched in the practice of education. The reception was so well attended that the College of Education plans to make it an annual event.

“This is the kind of opportunity that came out of the Centennial celebrations that we’re trying to capitalize on to continue to engage our alumni,” said Joanne Connor, senior associate dean for external affairs.



Dean Jean-Marie congratulates raffle winners at the NJEA Centennial mixer.

“

THIS IS THE KIND OF OPPORTUNITY THAT CAME OUT OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS THAT WE’RE TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON TO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE OUR ALUMNI.”

Joanne Connor

Senior Associate Dean for External Affairs.



Alumni across generations (top and above) reconnect at the College of Education’s Centennial Mixer, held after the first day of the New Jersey Educators Association Convention in Atlantic City. Faculty member Corinne Brown (top, far right) joined in the celebration.



HOMECOMING

CELEBRATION



▲ Leah Walker (right), former director of the Early Childhood Demonstration Center, and Education student Kylie Fazio hold their award-winning banner at the Homecoming Celebration.



◀ College of Education Professor Zeynep Isik-Ercan sports a vintage mascot head at the Homecoming tent.

Bringing memories out of the archives for Homecoming

Every Homecoming event is a celebration, but the focus on the institution's Centennial anniversary made Rowan University's October 2023 Homecoming extra special. By working with University Archives to put original artifacts on display, College leadership brought the history of the College alive for Homecoming attendees.

The historical documents on display included a grade book dating back to 1923—complete with the student's century-old grades in subjects like handwriting. Attendees were able to handle some objects, even trying on a 50-year-old Prof mascot head and taking photos.

"The archive display was a huge hit, and it afforded us an important opportunity to invite people to other events and talk about what we're doing in the College," said Joanne Connor, senior associate dean for external affairs, noting that the rain couldn't dampen Homecoming attendees' enthusiasm.



▲ A proud Prof takes advantage of a photo op at the College of Education's Homecoming tent.

CONNECTING

RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

Innovation drives College's research

Research findings in areas like literacy and adapted practices can advance the field of education through the development of more effective teaching methods. In the College of Education, numerous programs and initiatives integrate groundbreaking research findings into opportunities for pre-service teacher training and professional development.

Graduate Research Showcase

Graduate students from across the College presented their research in teacher education, counseling, school psychology and education administration during the second annual Graduate Student Research Showcase in December 2023. The event included a presentation by New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Brian Bridges.

"The research showcase provides an essential platform for bridging the gap between research and practice, offering our graduate students the opportunity to present innovative work that has the potential to transform education," said Ane Turner Johnson, professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Administration & Research.



▲ Karen Teller, Ed.D. candidate, poses with her research poster at the College of Education's Graduate Student Research Showcase.

RAPID Grants

In partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education, faculty in the College developed training for pre-service and practicing educators and school leaders to boost pedagogical content knowledge of literacy. The grant-funded Reading Acceleration Professional Integrated Development (RAPID) Literacy Project focuses on developing skills for teachers in early education and elementary grade levels, while the RAPID Plus Initiative focuses on upper elementary grades.

"We've revised courses and syllabi, redesigned key assessments and reimagined clinical experiences for students in ways that immerse them in opportunities to work with real learners engaged in literacy practices—all of which heavily draw on research," said Melissa Awenowicz, co-principal investigator of RAPID Literacy Project and assistant dean for assessment and accreditation.

The RAPID Plus team, led by Xiufang Chen, professor and chair in the Department of Critical Literacy, Technology & Multilingual Education, developed and delivered a series of training sessions for educators and a webinar for school and district leaders, drawing on multidisciplinary research in reading. On the RAPID Literacy team, Awenowicz and Valarie Lee, associate professor in the Department of Critical Literacy, Technology & Multilingual Education, led faculty in the creation of a professional development series on multilingual learners for grades 4-6.



▲ Camp Abilities athletes and coaches gather for a group photo.

▲ Athletes and coaches canoe at Camp Abilities @ Rowan University in the Rec Center pool.



Learning Resource Center-South

During the 2023-24 academic year, the Learning Resource Center-South expanded its reach with technical assistance in area schools and also welcomed a cohort of beginning teachers to its New Teacher Academy. The experts in the LRC-South who create monthly professional development opportunities base their instructional materials and professional learning opportunities on best practices backed by research.

The Center's 2024 Inclusion Institute's theme of storytelling was a nod to Rowan's Centennial celebration, according to grant principal investigators Amy Accardo and Brianne Morettini.

Early Childhood Leadership Institute

The Early Childhood Leadership Institute (ECLI) partnered with state agencies to develop New Jersey's first federally registered childcare apprenticeship program.

"An innovative feature of this program is that it includes supports and a customized process for family childcare programs as well as center-based early care and education programs," said Zeynep Isik-Ercan, co-director of the institute.

"ECLI regularly researches best practices across a variety of fields and implements research in our coaching, training and evaluation programs."

Camp Abilities

With robust programs in the fall and spring semesters, Camp Abilities NJ @ Rowan University provided physical education opportunities for 27 young people with visual impairments. The camp provides free, high-quality opportunities for campers to engage in sports like rock climbing, canoeing, skateboarding, tennis and gymnastics.

Camp Abilities programs offered Rowan students the opportunity to put into practice teaching and coaching skills in adapted physical education practices.

The program also facilitated research studies in partnership with the Rita & Larry Salva School of Nursing & Health Professions, according to Maria Lepore-Stevens, who co-directs the program along with Health & Exercise Science Assistant Professor Shari Willis.



AN INNOVATIVE FEATURE OF THIS PROGRAM IS THAT IT INCLUDES SUPPORTS AND A CUSTOMIZED PROCESS FOR FAMILY CHILDCARE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS CENTER-BASED EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS."

Zeynep Isik-Ercan

Co-director, Early Childhood Leadership Institute

NEW DIRECTIONS

Embracing new tagline, the College of Education works to innovate, engage & transform

With new directions in mind, the College has adopted a new tagline: Innovate, Engage and Transform.

INNOVATE

The College's efforts to address today's educational needs embody a commitment to developing novel ideas, implementing groundbreaking methods and pioneering new programs.

"We're deepening our efforts to innovate by strengthening partnerships with educational stakeholders within schools and the Department of Education, as well as with the communities we serve," said Dean Gaëtane Jean-Marie. "Through robust innovation, we can nurture the intellectual culture and foster a more cohesive, collegial and collaborative work environment."

ENGAGE

Engagement at the College encompasses research efforts, initiatives to improve student achievement and alumni involvement.

"Our faculty's engagement through grants and contracts helps them advance research and address pressing issues," Jean-Marie said. The College also has developed what Jean-Marie calls a "menu of engagement" that allows for enhanced connections with alumni.

TRANSFORM

The College aims to make a transformative impact on the field, revolutionizing education both in the classroom and on a policy level, the dean noted.

"Our new vision to transform education involves removing the barriers for our students to be able to become educators," said Jean-Marie.



OUR NEW VISION TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION INVOLVES REMOVING THE BARRIERS FOR OUR STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO BECOME EDUCATORS."

Gaëtane Jean-Marie
Dean

New directions call for a new department structure

With student connection and interdisciplinary collaboration in mind, the College of Education underwent its own transformation in the form of restructuring its academic departments.

The departments in the College now include:

- > Early Childhood, Elementary Education & Critical Foundations
- > Content Area Teaching Education
- > Critical Literacy, Technology & Multilingual Education
- > Wellness & Inclusive Services in Education
- > Educational Leadership, Administration & Research

"We're creating opportunities for more interdisciplinary collaboration across our academic programs and enabling our students to better connect with their home academic programs," said Dean Gaëtane Jean-Marie.

"Our focus is on being responsive and meeting shared challenges to elevate research support, improve efficiencies and enhance teaching and learning through interdisciplinary curriculum programs."

First MOCHA cohort celebrates program completion with blazer ceremony

After two years of hard work, the 10 members of the Men of Color Hope Achievers (MOCHA) cohort who completed their teaching certification program in June were recognized for their academic achievement during an on-campus ceremony. In addition to the Certificate of Eligibility each teacher in the alternative route program earned, students also received a MOCHA blazer.

"The very essence of the MOCHA program was new and innovative," said Ya Vanca Brooks, project coordinator. "The first MOCHA cohort's completion of the program aligns with the College of Education's new direction to prepare our graduates to impact the world locally, regionally, nationally and globally."

The members of the MOCHA cohort already had undergraduate degrees in fields outside of education. They served as full-time teachers at schools in Camden, Woodbury, Vineland, Trenton, Bridgeton and Penns Grove while completing the teaching courses needed to become a licensed educator through Rowan's ASPIRE to Teach program. Members of this community of practice had something else in common: as men of color, they are underrepresented in the teaching profession today.

"The MOCHA program reflects our commitment to address the teacher shortage and diversify the profession," said Dean Gaëtane Jean-Marie, "And it also reflects what happens when alignment between policy, partnership and practice serves as the driver for implementation."

Members of the second MOCHA cohort, consisting of 23 fellows, are on track to obtain their Certificate of Eligibility for teaching certification this spring.



The leadership team of the MOCHA Program includes Dean Jean-Marie (third from left) and faculty members (from left) Stacey Leftwich, Marjorie Madden, Issam Abi-El-Mona, Corine Brown and Cory Dixon.

Montgomery Strickland (top) and Genaro Borreo (above)—members of the first MOCHA cohort—receive their insignia-stitched blazer at the program's closing ceremony.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

BETTINA LOVE & JEANNINE LARUE



DR. LOVE PROVIDED THE AUDIENCE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF RESOURCES AND VALUABLE VIEWS TO CONSIDER AS WE WORK AND LEARN IN TODAY'S CHALLENGING TIMES."

Tyrone McCombs
Executive Director, CASE

Bettina Love, author and academic, delivers a powerful keynote address to audience members (right) at the 2024 CASE Summit.

As keynote speaker, Bettina Love addresses educational equity and the need for diversity at CASE Summit

Speaking at the Center for Access, Success & Equity (CASE) Summit in April, educator and author Bettina L. Love addressed the failings of school reform efforts of the past and outlined what she said were detrimental effects on children, particularly children of color.

A highly regarded researcher, Love holds the William F. Russell Professorship in the Foundations of Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Part of the Centennial Lecture Series, Love's address highlighted the need for greater diversity in the teaching profession and the negative impact of educational reform efforts based on inaccurate and incomplete data.

"Dr. Love provided the audience with a great deal of resources and valuable views to consider as we work and learn in today's challenging times," said CASE Executive Director Tyrone McCombs.

The CASE Summit was an opportunity for P-12 educators to learn about the diverse research of College of Education faculty, including:

- > Zalphia Wilson-Hill, Department of Wellness & Inclusive Services in Education (WISE)
- > Michelle Damiani, WISE, with Ph.D. student Olusola Ogundola, executive director of Project Restoration International Initiative
- > Nicole Edwards, WISE
- > Cecile Sam, Department of Educational Leadership, Administration & Research (ELAR), and Jill Perry, Department of Content Area Teacher Education
- > Magdalena Martinez, ELAR
- > Zeynep Isik-Ercan, Department of Early Childhood, Elementary Education & Critical Foundations
- > Kara Ieva, WISE, with Augusta University's Jordan Beasley, George Mason University's Sam Steen, Melissa Fransozi of Atlantic County School Counseling and Student Personnel Services and school counselors Indra Owens and Erica Figueroa

Reiterating the importance of educational equity, guest speaker Daniel F. Oscar, founder of Realign Education, delivered the summit's closing remarks.

Alumna and advisory board co-chair Jeannine LaRue delivers Commencement address

Half a century after missing her own graduation due to working full-time as an English teacher, Jeannine LaRue '74 returned to campus as the College of Education's 2024 Commencement speaker.

"It was almost like I was marching for my own Commencement 50 years later," LaRue said, calling the experience "the thrill of my life."

LaRue's life has been full of challenges. By the time she enrolled in Glassboro State College, she was already a survivor of sexual assault and a young mother. She persevered as a nontraditional student, taking classes year-round to complete her degree in three years before being hired as the first Black English teacher at Penns Grove High School.

Her involvement with the New Jersey Education Association landed LaRue her first lobbyist position with the NJEA. She then was appointed to serve on the Casino Control Commission by then-Governor Jim Florio.

Highlights of LaRue's nearly 40-year public service career include being elected a municipal official, serving as Governor Jon S. Corzine's Deputy Chief of Staff and organizing the New Jersey Women's Summit that lasted for 20 years. She founded the blog 'The LaRuelist Report' and the podcast 'LaRuelist Café' and has served as senior vice president of The Zita Group, a female-owned lobbying firm, and partner at Moxie Strategies, a female-, Black-, and LGBTQIA+-owned marketing and public relations firm.

LaRue has served on dozens of charitable and non-profit boards, including the College of Education Advisory Board, which she co-chairs with Dean Gaëtane Jean-Marie. She's also a founding member of Rowan University's Black Alumni Network (RUBAN). She retired from Rutgers University as Vice President of Public Affairs.

Although LaRue found herself the first and only Black woman in numerous roles she held throughout her career, her contributions helped open doors for others from underrepresented backgrounds.



SO, GO FORTH TODAY WITH THE INTENT OF UPHOLDING THE LEGACY OF THIS COLLEGE AND THIS INSTITUTION...AND INTENT ON CREATING YOUR OWN LEGACIES AS WELL."

Jeannine LaRue '74
Commencement Speaker

"Class of 2024, your legacy lives in everything you do with your life...even when you feel like the challenges are insurmountable, or the goals unattainable. Live your lives with the belief that you will prevail. Gain strength in the knowledge that others, too, have encountered all that you have been confronted with and they, too, have prevailed.

So, go forth today with the intent of upholding the legacy of this college and this institution...and intent on creating your own legacies as well," LaRue told graduates in her address.



After her remarks to the graduating class, Jeannine Frisby LaRue receives the Medal of Excellence for Distinguished Service at the College of Education's commencement ceremony, presented by Dean Jean-Marie and Provost Anthony Lowman.



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