

Rowan University College of Education



CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 | 9:30 A.M.

EYNON BALLROOM, CHAMBERLAIN STUDENT CENTER

Welcome

Good morning, and welcome to the College of Education Celebration Breakfast.

It is truly a pleasure to be here with all of you—our proud alumni, our dedicated faculty and staff, our valued community partners, and the outstanding individuals we are honoring today. Your presence speaks volumes about the shared commitment we have to advancing education and empowering learners at every level.

These are challenging times for our profession. Educators and educational institutions face increasing demands and complex obstacles. Yet, through collaboration, innovation, and a deep sense of purpose, we continue to rise to the occasion—working together to strengthen the educator workforce and support student success.

This morning, we celebrate not only our collective efforts but also the extraordinary accomplishments of our award recipients. Each of them exemplifies excellence, leadership, and an unwavering dedication to the field of education:

Dr. Al Lewis '06

Dr. Corlette Mays M'97 Ed.D'16

Senator Troy Singleton '05

These awardees represent the very best of our College of Education community. Their stories remind us of what's possible when passion meets purpose—and why our work matters now more than ever.

To our dedicated faculty and staff who helped put this wonderful celebration together—thank you for the countless ways you lift up our alumni and students. Your commitment, often behind the scenes, makes all the difference. I'm incredibly proud of the work we do together to prepare future leaders, educators, and changemakers who will leave a lasting impact on our world.

Thank you all for being here this morning, and thank you for the vital role each of you play in shaping the future of education.



Gaëtane Jean-Marie, Ph.D.

Dean, Rowan University College of Education

Agenda

CHECK-IN & NETWORKING | 9:30 AM

BREAKFAST | 9:45 AM

WELCOME & REMARKS | 10:15 AM

Dr. Ali A. Houshmand
President, Rowan University

Dr. Gaëtane Jean-Marie
Dean, College of Education

AWARDS PRESENTATION | 10:40 AM

Award for Outstanding Achievement
Awarded to: Dr. Al Lewis
Presented by: Dr. Joe Lizza

Award for University Engagement
Awarded to: Dr. Corlette Mays
Presented by: Dr. Zeynep Isik-Ercan

Award for Community Service
Awarded to: Senator Troy Singleton
Presented by: Dr. Drew Tinnin

CLOSING & RAFFLE | 11:10 AM

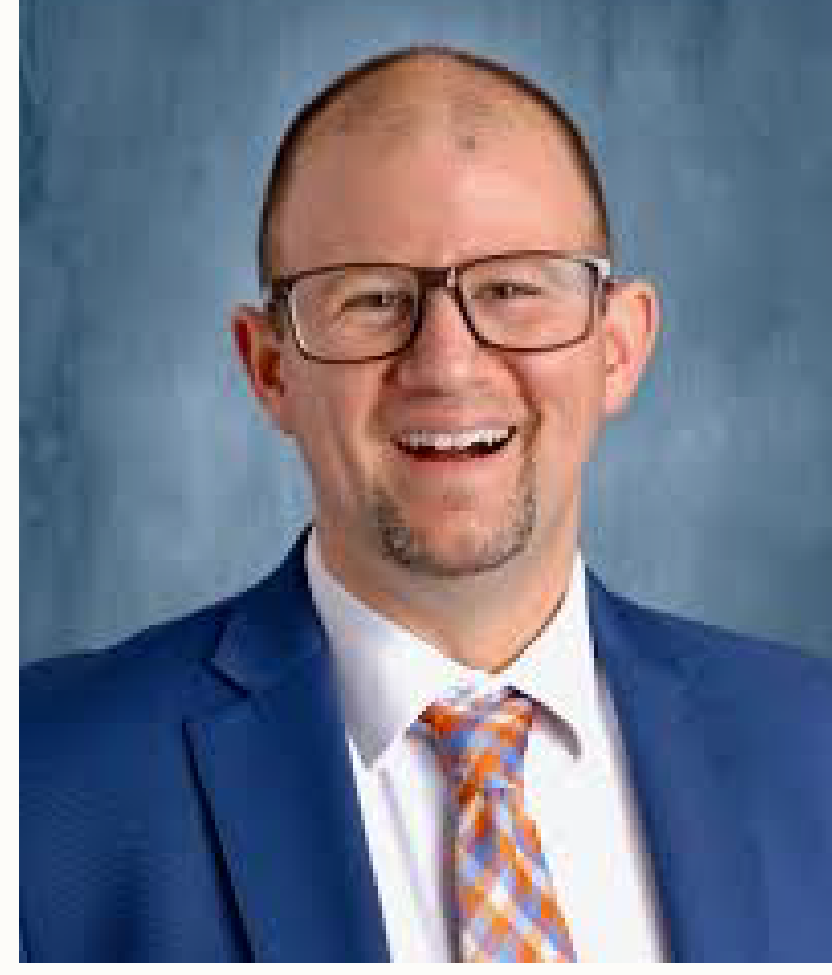
Dr. Gaëtane Jean-Marie

Meet the Alumni Award Winners

We are proud to recognize three extraordinary individuals who have made a lasting impact on the field of education and their communities. Please join us in congratulating this year's College of Education Alumni Award Winners.

Dr. Al Lewis '06

Award for Outstanding Achievement



Dr. Al Lewis earned degrees in elementary education and history from Rowan in 2006 and began his career teaching at Signal Hill Elementary. He later became STEM Supervisor for Gloucester Township Public Schools, where he led significant instructional and operational improvements. Since 2022, he has served as Superintendent of Weymouth Township School District, where his relationship-centered leadership has boosted academic achievement, enrollment, and fiscal health. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Lewis received the 2024 NASS Excellence in Small School District Leadership Award, founded a Title I STEAM Summer Camp, and pioneered innovative STEAM programs and interventions that serve all learners. His data-driven leadership continues to impact students and communities across South Jersey.

Dr. Corlette Mays M'97 Ed.D.'16

Award for University Engagement



Dr. Corlette Mays is a dedicated educator, mentor, and leader with over 35 years of service in education and civic engagement. After beginning her career in the insurance industry, she transitioned to education, serving as a teacher, department chair, librarian, faculty advisor, and assistant principal at Camden's Brimm Medical Arts High School, retiring in 2015. A two-time Rowan alumna with degrees in School Librarianship and Educational Leadership, Dr. Mays also holds an Ed.D. from Rowan. She remains deeply engaged with the University, actively participating in events and committees. Her lifetime of work has been recognized by organizations such as the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and College Bound Scholars, and she continues to serve the region as a consultant and advocate for educational equity.

Senator Troy Singleton '05

Award for Community Service



Senator Troy Singleton has proudly represented New Jersey's 7th Legislative District since 2011. A passionate advocate for affordable housing, economic development, workers' rights, and education, he currently serves as Majority Caucus Chair and Chairman of the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. A proud Rowan alumnus, he earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Finance, building a strong foundation for leadership and public service. Singleton is also the visionary behind MOCHA (Men of Color Hope Achievers), a statewide initiative that recruits and prepares men of color to enter the teaching profession. He is widely recognized for his tireless efforts to improve quality of life for residents across New Jersey.

Alumni Awards

Award for Outstanding Achievement:

This award is given to a Rowan alumnus(a) who achieved remarkable success in the field of education. This individual has not only excelled in their professional pursuits but has also brought notable recognition to Rowan University, extending their impact to the region and beyond. This award acknowledges their outstanding accomplishments and contributions.

Award for University Engagement:

This award honors an alumnus(a) who demonstrates loyalty and commitment to Rowan University through exceptional service aimed at advancing the mission of the College of Education. This individual sets an example for others through their dedicated volunteer efforts, serves as an ambassador of the College's initiatives, and/or embodies what it means to be an education champion.

Award for Community Service:

This award celebrates the impactful contributions of a Rowan alumnus(a) who has made a substantial difference and positive change within their community. They have shown outstanding commitment to community service in one or more of the following areas: community volunteerism, philanthropy, or public office.

Special Thanks

This celebration would not have been possible without the support, creativity, and collaboration of many individuals and departments across Rowan University. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed their time, talent, and energy to bring this event to life. Your partnership reflects the spirit of unity and shared purpose that drives our College forward. Thank you for helping us honor and celebrate the people, stories, and impact of the College of Education.

Planning Committee:

Joanne Connor, Chris D'Angelo,
Linda DiGennaro, Cara Forline,
Michael Fromm, Joe Lizza, Carly Marsella,
Tyrone McCombs, Karen Rosa, Drew Tinnin,
Crystal Toomer

Selection Committee:

Molly Fisher, Zeynep Isik-Ercan,
Tyrone McCombs, Jill Perry, Karen Rosa,
Crystal Toomer

University Partners:

Chamberlain Student Center & Campus
Activities

College of Education Advisory Board

Gourmet Dining

Office of Alumni Engagement

Office of Government & External Relations

Office of the President

Office of the Provost

Rowan University Police Department

University Advancement

University Events

University Publications

University Relations

About the Rowan University College of Education

OUR MISSION

The Rowan University College of Education (CED) will be a leading force in preparing and supporting reflective practitioners who use education to transform our global society.

OUR IMPACT

Innovating through teaching, research, and community engagement to address challenges and opportunities in the P-20 educational system.

Engaging with stakeholders to increase the number of College of Education graduates in schools throughout the State.

Transforming lives by preparing a debt-free, diverse educator workforce.

A Legacy of Learning, A Future of Innovation

More than 100 years after Rowan was first founded to prepare educators, the College of Education remains true to its original mission—while continuing to evolve to meet the needs of today’s—and tomorrow’s—educational landscape.

Since its founding in 1923, Rowan has transformed from a teacher-training school into a nationally recognized research institution. Similarly, the College of Education has grown from a single department into a dynamic college with a wide range of programs that serve students from undergraduate through doctoral levels.

Originally established to address New Jersey’s critical shortage of trained elementary school teachers, the institution began as Glassboro Normal School. On September 24, 1923, the school welcomed 236 young women. Under the leadership of Dr. Jerohn Savitz, its first president, the curriculum expanded to four years, and in 1937, the institution was renamed the New Jersey State Teachers College at Glassboro.

Today, the College of Education builds on that foundation, preparing educators, researchers, and leaders who are committed to equity, inclusion, and social justice. The college’s work extends far beyond the classroom, shaping education policy, advancing research, and creating community partnerships that impact learners across the state and beyond. As it looks to the future, the College of Education remains a powerful force in transforming education and the lives it touches.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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