



OFFICE OF EDUCATOR SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIPS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020 - VOLUME IV - ISSUE 2

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Spring breathes new life into the world around us and that is exactly what has been happening in the **Office of Educator Support and Partnerships (OESP)**. Due to COVID-19, many of the planned events and activities had to be postponed or cancelled, but I am excited to share in this issue of the newsletter some highlights before the university moved to a remote learning environment.

I begin with **Camp EduAdventure**; the summer day camp that my office ran last summer, has been cancelled. There are plans to hold camp next summer and information will be shared in the Fall.

The **Camden and Collingswood Pipeline Initiatives** continued in the spring semester, but, unfortunately, was shortened due to the NJ school closures. Both initiatives will be revisited in the fall as a way to attract new teachers to the Camden and Collingswood school districts.

An initiative that the College of Education (CED) is still working to initiate is the **Teacher Preparation Academies**. The CED's academy is being offered as a four year high school, college and career readiness program (September to June, including Summer Activities). It follows a **Hand, Heart and Mind** philosophy that includes interactive instructional activities and practices, develop professional dispositions and gain knowledge and skills for a career in education. More information will be shared about this exciting initiative in the fall.

Although the **Rowan Urban Teacher Academy (RUTA)** will not be offered this summer, CED faculty did share research from this program at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education's (AACTE) annual conference. Highlights from the conference presentation are presented in this issue.

Project IMPACT had planned to celebrate the annual **Blazer Ceremony**. This event was cancelled, but will be held in the fall. Four scholars were to receive their blazers and the CED was looking forward to celebrating with Mr. Sharif El-Mekki, founder and CEO for the Center for Black Educator Development. Mr. El-Mekki was slated as the keynote speaker for the event.

The remaining newsletter will share the happenings of the office throughout the end of the fall and the beginning of the spring semesters.

As always the OESP continues to work hard to communicate information to the Rowan community and P12 partners. My team and I are happy to support the mission and vision of the CED.

All the best,

Dr. Stacey Leftwich

Executive Director, Office of Educator Support and Partnerships



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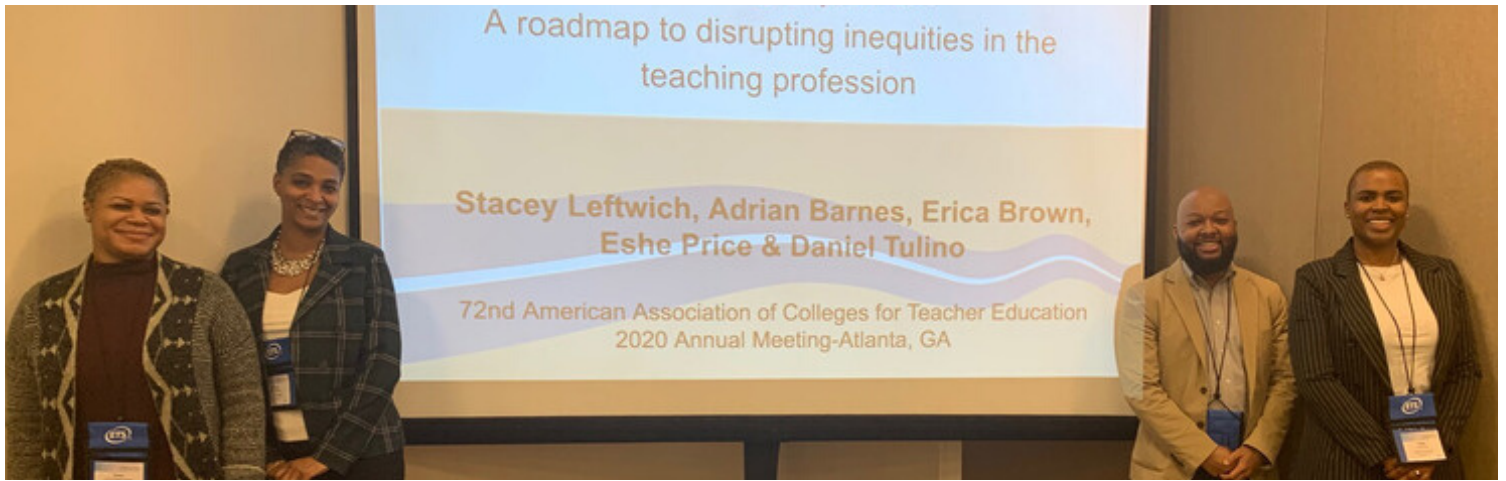
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TEACHER PIPELINE PROGRAMS



The **Rowan Urban Teacher Academy (RUTA)** continues to grow. In 2017, after a two year hiatus, RUTA returned, offering programs in school districts. Bridgeton was the first to offer the program, followed by Pleasantville and Camden City in 2018. The Camden City RUTA is a part of the Camden Neighborhood Promise Grant that was awarded to the CED in 2014. The program includes a visit to Rowan for a campus tour, working with the avatars in the TEACHLive Lab, a presentation in the Planetarium and a welcome lunch hosted by the dean's office. Thanks go out to lead faculty facilitators, Eshe Price and Daniel Tulino, who were to be joined by Adrian Barnes and Erica Watson-Brown to implement the summer program.

In February Dr. Leftwich and the RUTA planning team presented at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) in Atlanta, GA. The team's presentation **University Pipelines: A roadmap to disrupting inequities in the teaching profession** shared information about the RUTA program and how RUTA can be used as a way to entice high school students of color to consider a career in the teaching profession as well as address the persistent gap between students of color and those who teach them.

The CED, **Camden City schools and the RELAY Graduate School of Education** continue to participate in a teacher pipeline program. The partnership is meant to attract new teachers to Camden and create a sustainable pipeline of high-potential educators for the city of Camden. Supported by the Camden Education Fund (CEF), a non-profit focused on talent, equity, engagement, and instructional quality with the end-goal of accelerating the academic progress of Camden City students who attend district, charter, and renaissance schools, CEF intends to create partnerships with experts to address the lack of diverse teacher pipelines; offer grants to schools, non-profits, and universities; and develop strategic partnerships that will benefit all students.

On January 27th information sessions were held at Rowan. Teacher candidates planning to begin their clinical practice year in fall 2020, attended the sessions and close to 20 candidates have signed up to participate in the program.



Project IMPACT Activities



INCREASING MALE PRACTITIONERS AND CLASSROOM TEACHERS

On February 7th, Ms. Nadeen Herring, Teacher Recruiter and Retention Specialists and Mr. George Guy, Rosa International Middle School Principal and MOC Lead Facilitator along with mentors and IMPACT scholars visited with over 80 Cherry Hill school district students at Cherry Hill West High School. During the visit the IMPACT scholars spoke about their experiences in the program.

Despite the recent complications within Rowan's community as a result of COVID-19's health implications, Project IMPACT and the MOC Network have continued to go strong in facilitating their members' professional development. In late March, the Scholars met once again with Ms. Herring and their mentors to go over their available opportunities for support within the MOC Network and the remote Praxis Lab. Moving forward we expect to see continued success with these young individuals both in their studies and Praxis experiences!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS



National Award Winner

The Rowan PDS Network was awarded the 2020 PDS Exemplary Achievement Award. With this honor Rowan's PDSs were recognized on stage at the 2020 NAPDS conference in Atlantic City, NJ. Dean Jean-Marie and Dr. Leftwich accepted the award on behalf of the network. Dr. Leftwich is working with network partners to turn the award application into a publication for the association's Fall 2020 journal and an opportunity to share the great PDS work at Rowan. The latter is one of the benefits of winning the award.

National Association PDS Conference

Rowan was highly represented at the 2020 NAPDS conference. Nine proposals were accepted and presented at the conference by PIRs, P12 administrators, teachers and clinical interns who are a part of the Rowan PDS Network.



Prior to the conference, the CED hosted the pre-conference activities. Pre-conference participants selected to visit one of 4 PDSs in Glassboro and visited classrooms to observe the four pillars of PDS in action. After the school visit, participants traveled to Rowan University for lunch, before concluding the day with Rowan administrators and other important members of the PDS team. Conversations were held on how to launch and sustain a PDS Network.

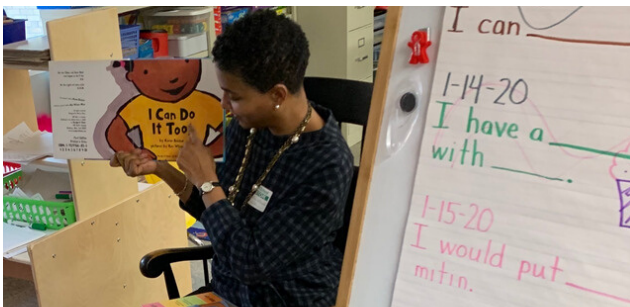
Finally, Rowan was highlighted at the conference as one of four keynote presenters, sharing the work conducted at the Bowe School in Glasboro.





African American Read-In Events

An event that has taken place for three years in the Rowan PDSs, the **African American Read-In** is the nation's first and oldest event dedicated to diversity in literature. Established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English, the purpose is to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. This initiative has reached more than 6 million participants around the world. Guests included Rowan faculty and administrators as well as community members who volunteered to read to P12 learners at the Rowan PDSs throughout the month of February.



Praxis Lab

Since November, the **Praxis Lab** has served close to 100 students, with a total of 170 sessions. On average, students gained 17 points on the Praxis Core exam after receiving help from the Lab.

The Praxis Lab Coordinator, Debra Mulville, facilitated several free workshops during the spring semester. These included a **Praxis Core: Everything you Need to Know** workshop in which a total of 10 students attended as well as a **Praxis Core: Writing Boot Camp** for a number of the IMPACT Scholars. A free, 2-hour Praxis Core: Writing Workshop was offered to all Rowan students on March 11th and 12th. In order to assist students who will be taking the Praxis Core to meet the August 1st benchmark, the Praxis Lab will be scheduling and offering free workshops in all three of the subject areas of the Praxis Core. While Rowan is closed due to COVID-19, all workshops will be offered online. For more information contact Debra Mulville at mulville@rowan.edu

Office of Clinical Experiences



The **Office of Clinical Experiences (OCE)** continues to support the educator preparation programs within the CED, securing over 2,100 placements for interns at all levels within the past year. Two new initiatives were successfully implemented, strengthening placement relationships with the Collingswood School District and the Camden Teacher Pipeline program. These initiatives offer immersive experiences beyond the traditional clinical practice, including professional development opportunities and stipends for participants. Although the initial cohorts were small and restricted to two CED programs, interest in these initiatives continues to grow. More schools in the city of Camden have joined the Camden Teacher Pipeline with all initial teacher preparation programs within the CED now participating. The number of interns requesting admission to the Camden Teacher Pipeline has tripled. The dedicated OCE team collaborates with all district partners and CED programs to continually improve communication and share information relevant to our students, faculty and staff.

Graduate Spotlight

MARIA TREJO-ROSALBA

Maria Rosalba Trejo-Mendiola is a 2018 Rowan University graduate, who earned a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish. Having moved to the United States at the age of 11, she discovered early on that her biggest passion in life was helping others. After completing her Bachelors, Maria started working as a Career Placement Developer with high school students for Pathstone, a non-profit organization. In this program, students learn about resume building, job readiness, job seeking, and longevity with a position. Students explore their career options, among many other things. After working for Pathstone for a year, Maria has decided to return to Rowan to pursue her Masters of Science of Teaching in Education. She is also an active volunteer tutor and translator. Maria will be graduating in May 2020.

"I want to encourage everyone to pursue their dreams, and when faced with obstacles, always remember, '¡sí se puede!'"



CLAUDIA PULEO WOLF

Claudia Puleo Wolf is a graduate of Rowan University's Masters in counseling in Educational Settings (CES) program. While attending, Claudia was involved as a President of the Chi Sigma Iota honor society, as well as a supporting member of the Aim High Program directed towards high school students in STEM. Since graduating, Claudia has gone on to become the school counselor at Lenape High School, where she also acts as a Class Advisor and Title I Coordinator. Additionally, she remains active in the Rowan academic community by teaching courses for both the CES program and Rowan's STEAM Academy every summer. Ultimately, Claudia hopes to continue this pursuit of education in Social Emotional Learning through either state licensure or even a Ph.D. in Rowan's doctoral program!

