

## Montclair State University

### Contextual Information

Montclair State is a comprehensive, public teaching university located in northern New Jersey with 15,431 undergraduate and 4,033 graduate students. Eighty-seven percent of undergraduates are full-time students. The average class size is 22; student to teacher ratio is 17:1. The University consists of 5 colleges and two schools. The College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) offers a wide variety of outstanding undergraduate and graduate programs to 4,020 students in seven academic departments. Within the College is the Center of Pedagogy, the formal structure charged with coordinating teacher education, whereby faculty from arts and sciences, education and the public schools are equal partners in the ongoing work of preparing and sustaining teachers. A well-articulated vision for teaching and learning in a democratic society, the Agenda for Education in a Democracy, guides teacher education. Embedded in this Agenda is a belief in the transformative power of public education as a vehicle for social justice, equity, and the betterment of persons in our society. The Teacher Education Program is NCATE accredited, cited for excellence in several areas—coherence of vision, the Portrait of a Teacher, attention to issues of diversity, and partnership with the public schools.

#### **The College of Education and Human Services is dedicated to:**

\* Providing quality undergraduate and graduate programs for both traditional and non-traditional students; developing professionals who will achieve the College's goals and meet requisite professional standards; and making available several learning opportunities.

\* Supporting and engaging in service and scholarship (including local, national, and international collaborations) which add to the bodies of knowledge and practice in the disciplines represented in the College and which address the consequential issues faced by local, national, and global communities.

\* Collaborating with field-based professionals-based on parity, trust and mutual interests-to support the continued learning of experienced professionals and foster the simultaneous renewal of the preparation of professionals and of the professions and communities in which they serve.

#### **Our academic programs are committed to preparing professionals:**

- Who have the requisite knowledge and skills to be excellent practitioners;
- Who engage in critical reflection, inquiry, critical thinking, and life-long learning;
- Who are committed to the moral and ethical dimensions and standards of their professions, and pursuit of social justice;
- Who promote learning and growth for all, and respect social, cultural, economic, and individual differences;
- Who are stewards of best practice within their profession;
- Who engage in supporting individuals and groups to be active and critical participants in our political and social democracy.

Over the past four years, Montclair State's secondary and elementary teacher education programs were ranked among the top 20 of US News and World Report rankings of America's Best Graduate Schools. In 2011, the *Academy for Educational Development's National Institute for Work and Learning* recognized the teacher preparation program for having exemplary models of clinical practice, school district partnerships, and the ability of graduates to have a positive impact on their P-12 students.