

## **Felician College**

The mission of the Felician College School of Education is to foster competent, caring, and compassionate educators to serve a diverse population, promote a collaborative spirit, encourage self-reflection, and emphasize life-long learning. Our faculty provides the kind of support needed to inspire students to learn, to believe in themselves as learners and as teachers, and to continuously endeavor to grow intellectually and spiritually as human beings.

Our commitment is to the underserved, to first generation college students, and to students who have not been nurtured by or received the approbation of their teachers. This was the character of Saint Francis of Assisi, our primary philosophical and spiritual guide, who kissed and washed the wounds of lepers, and who went to the Crusades to foster peace and unity among people of different beliefs. Francis is the patron saint of ecology because he respected the dignity of all of creation. Felician College is a recognized Hispanic serving institution and is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the United Nations.

The core values of Respect for Human Dignity, Compassion, Transformation, Solidarity with the Poor, Justice and Peace, Reverence, Diversity, Service and Joy permeate all School of Education activities, including our partnerships, which are founded on the Franciscan value of service to others. School of Education faculty volunteer to provide high quality professional development workshops for teachers in our partner schools. Almost half of our teacher candidates work in high needs schools after they graduate.

The School of Education works closely and collaboratively with the rest of the college, especially the School of Arts and Sciences. Communication is ongoing and meetings with departments where our students have subject area majors are held frequently to revise courses and plans of study to meet new requirements and the needs of our students. Because dialogue occurs frequently faculty pay close attention to student needs. The entire college actively participates in the preparation of teachers at Felician College.

The traditional undergraduate and the Bachelor's for Working Adults (BWA) Teacher Education programs are clinically rich. Students in the undergraduate program are required to complete extensive field experiences in varied settings throughout their course of study (urban, suburban, private, public, regular, special education). Starting in the second semester of their freshman year, undergraduate Teacher Education students spend the full day every Tuesday in a field setting: six semesters of fieldwork totaling at least 360 hours in real classrooms before student teaching.

Adult BWA students, many of whom already work in schools as paraprofessionals, take field courses in compressed 9 week schedules. They complete a total of 180 hours in real classrooms before they enter student teaching.

Students in the Post-Baccalaureate Program, the Teacher Education Certification (TEC) program complete two semesters in the field, 120 hours in real classrooms before entering student teaching.

The Felician College School of Education plans to offer more programs fully online and to offer new programs in Teaching English as a Second Language as well as Teaching with Technology.