

From: Brooklyn College (Education, School of)
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 1:20 PM
Subject: [BC] Congratulations and Happy Holidays From the Dean

Dear Brooklyn College Student:

Congratulations on completing the most challenging semester ever! I'm sure you must feel a huge sense of relief right now, and I hope you also feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment and pride. Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Brooklyn College School of Education, for persevering under the most difficult of circumstances, and for being understanding of your professors who are navigating this new world alongside you. All of the faculty and staff in the SOE have worked diligently to create a meaningful and valuable educational experience for you this semester.

Since the pandemic began, two of the biggest concerns of everyone in the School of Education have been about meeting clinical practice requirements and completing certification exams. The New York State Education Department has allowed a great deal of flexibility in how our educator candidates can participate in clinical experiences during this academic year, and in turn, our faculty in the SOE have been both flexible and innovative in working with our school and community partners to provide appropriate field experiences in a remote environment. For those of you who completed your degree requirements this semester, kudos on a job well done! For those planning to complete your degrees in Spring of 2021, our faculty will apply what we have learned the past nine months to make student teaching as beneficial as possible as we continue with remote clinical practice in the spring. While we all realize that virtual fieldwork is not ideal, we appreciate the opportunity to develop clinical experiences that allow you to progress toward graduation without interruption. We also realize that many of you are already teaching or working in schools or other agencies in a variety of capacities, and we will do our best to implement clinical experience requirements that are accommodating of this fact.

In addition to allowing a range of clinical experiences, NYSED has passed a number of temporary regulations regarding becoming a certified educator during the Covid crisis. Our dedicated, tireless certification officer, Ms. Helen Spencer, has remained in constant communication with all of you to provide information and answer your questions about these changes through email, holding frequent town hall meetings, and creating videos that address commonly identified concerns. Should you need further clarification about certification requirements for your program of study, please see our SOE certification website at <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/education/certification.php>.

I want to reiterate how proud I am of each and every one of you. We in the School of Education at Brooklyn College continually strive to provide the very best educator preparation programs to enable our graduates to serve children and families. There is no more important or fulfilling work, and I

commend you for not only choosing to pursue a career as a teacher, administrator, school counselor or school psychologist, but for choosing Brooklyn College for your educator preparation program, especially during this academic year unlike any other. I realize that graduate students, in particular, face myriad challenges in reaching your educational goals, and I and all our SOE faculty, departmental staff members, and staff in the Dean's office, are here to assist you in any way we can. We are rooting for your success! Finally, I wish you, your families and loved ones good health and a holiday season filled with rest and relaxation, laughter, joy and hope. Until we can return to campus in person, I am thinking of you all and look forward to seeing you virtually in 2021!

With warmest wishes,

Dean April Bedford

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