

From: Dean April Bedford, School of Education  
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 1:23 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 teacher candidates can participate in clinical experiences in P-12 classrooms during this academic year, and in turn, our faculty in the SOE have been both flexible and innovative in working with our school partners to provide appropriate field experiences in a remote environment. For those of you who student taught this semester, kudos on a job well done. For those planning to student teach 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.

In addition to allowing a range of clinical experiences, NYSED has passed a number of temporary regulations regarding becoming a certified teacher 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, please see our SOE certification website at <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/education/certification.php>, where you will find extensive information that will assist you in becoming a New York State-certified teacher.

To enhance your progress toward graduation, I encourage you to enroll in one or two required General Education courses or courses in your concentration area during the winter intercession in January. First, please check with your financial aid advisor to make sure this is a good choice for you financially. Then, if you haven't already spoken with an advisor or are unsure about which courses to take, please reach out to one of our wonderful School of Education advisors identified below. All

three SOE undergraduate advisors work incredibly hard to help you navigate the complex path toward becoming a teacher, and we are very grateful for their commitment to our students.

Childhood Education (CBSE) Advisor--June Perino, [Jperino@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:Jperino@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Early Childhood Education (ECAE) Advisor--Christine Colthirst, [Ccolthirs@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:Ccolthirs@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Secondary Education (SEED)--Lyn-Donna George, [Lyn-donna.George62@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:Lyn-donna.George62@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Finally, 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 preparation for teachers from early childhood through high school. There is no more important or fulfilling work, and I commend you for not only choosing to pursue a teaching career but for choosing Brooklyn College for your teacher preparation program, especially during this academic year unlike any other. I wish you, your families and loved ones good health and a holiday season filled with 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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