It is a new academic year and some changes have taken place in the Office of Educator Support and Partnerships (OESP). In this issue of the office newsletter, I have decided to provide an update on these recent changes. I begin with a revised office structure. You will see some names have been altered and the structure has been added to. Since the office organizer has changed slightly, I am including it again in this issue.

The remaining newsletter will share the happenings of the office since the spring semester. I begin with introductions of new faces in the OESP. Next, I highlight Project IMPACT, which joined the OESP this year. During an induction ceremony, 9 new IMPACT students have joined the COE. Last spring an edTPA event was conducted by the OESP and PEARSON publications. The welcoming of two new Professional Development Schools (PDSs) to the PDS Network and their banner unveiling is presented. This year, the Office of Clinical Experiences has been working to message the urgency of teacher candidates to apply for background clearance and this issue briefly shares the process. The Praxis Lab is showcased to share a new Praxis Core Boot Camp and Reboot Camp as a way to offer assistance to students needing help with the Praxis examination. Finally, Rowan Urban Teachers Academy (RUTA), a COE pipeline program for high school students interested in becoming teachers, returned after a two-year hiatus.

Although many new changes in the office have occurred, 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 College of Education.

All the best,

Dr. Stacey Leftwich,
Executive Director Office of Educator Support and Partnerships
What's happening in the OESP?

New Faces in the OESP
With two new PDSs joining the network, new PIRs have been hired. Gina Heller is the new PIR at the J. Harvey Rodgers School in Glassboro and Natoya Coleman will serve as the new PIR at West Deptford Middle School. Although not new to PDS, Gloria Spinella is the new PIR at Holly Glen Elementary School. Below is a brief bio of these new faces to the OESP.

Gina Heller PIR J. Harvey Rodgers
Gina Heller is a Professor-In-Resident at J. Harvey Rodgers School in Glassboro and an instructor for the Interdisciplinary and Inclusive Education Department. Her roles associated with her position include teaching on campus courses, providing professional development to teachers at her Professional Development School and supervising clinical interns. She received her B.A. from Richard Stockton University, a M.E.D in Literacy with a Reading Specialist Certification from West Chester University, and a M.ED. in Educational Leadership from Wilmington University. She has worked for 15 years in education as both a teacher and as a District Reading Specialist in grade Pre-K-8.

Natoya Coleman PIR West Deptford Middle School
Natoya Coleman is an advocate for rigorous instruction in urban settings. After 10 years of serving in the Secondary Education environment as an English Teacher, Curriculum Writer, Program Coordinator and Academic Coach, Natoya is now a PhD student in the College of Education focusing on Urban Education. Natoya is also a the Professor-In-Resident at West Deptford Middle School.

Gloria Spinella PIR Holly Glen Elementary School
Gloria Spinella is a 1973 graduate of Glassboro State College. She graduated with a major in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. She was then hired by the Winslow Township School District, where she taught first grade and then Basic Skills. She received her masters degree (Ed.M.) in Educational Administration from Temple University in 1980, and became the Supervisor of the Basic Skills Program in Winslow Township. In 1993 she became the principal of School 2 (a primary school) in Winslow Township until her retirement in 2000. From 2007-2012 she taught Early Childhood Curriculum and supervised student teachers in Early Childhood at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. In 2015 she returned to Rowan University as an adjunct professor. She teaches and supervises clinical interns. She is also the Professor-In-Resident at Holly Glen Elementary School in Monroe Township.
Teacher Education Recruiter, Dr. Nedd Johnson

Dr. Nedd Johnson began his educational career as a Social Studies teacher, but has held many roles including coach, counselor, Guidance Director, Guidance Supervisor, Assistant Principal, Principal and Assistant Superintendent. In June 2017, Dr. Johnson was nominated by the governor and confirmed by the New Jersey Senate to serve on the New Jersey State Board of Education. His role in the COE is an instructor in the IIE department as well as the Teacher Education Recruiter, which is housed in the OESP.

Praxis Lab Assistant, Brandais White, MA , NCC

Brandais White is the new Assistant Coordinator in the Praxis Lab. She also instructs the Praxis Lab Boot and Re-boot Camp Workshops. Brandi earned her MA in Counseling in Educational Settings from Rowan University. She completed a Certification of Advanced Graduate Studies in Mental Health Counseling also at Rowan. In addition to her degrees, she is a state certified domestic and sexual violence victim advocate. Brandais values the success and equity of all students, having learned through her experience that partnerships among students, parents, and the community are required to achieve such goals.

Graduate Assistant, Angelica Velazquez

Angelica earned her BA in Psychology from Stockton University. She is currently a graduate student in the Counseling in Educational Settings program at Rowan University. She plans on working as a counselor in a Higher Education setting. Currently, she is a Graduate Assistant for the OSEP office as well as the Graduate Intern for the Office of Career Advancement. She values the success of students and hopes to teach students as well as future educators about the importance of education. In addition to her degree, she is the treasurer of Chi Sigma Iota –The International Society for Counseling. She hopes to gain the best experience working alongside Dr. Leftwich this upcoming year!
Project Impact

The OESP is excited to welcome Project IMPACT. The mission of IMPACT is to increase the representation of males from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds in teaching. IMPACT focuses on incoming freshmen at Rowan University and provides resources and support throughout their college career. Fourteen males were inducted into the program last year and a new cohort of 9 males was inducted on September 9th. Dr. Leftwich has been working with the College of Education Advising Center and members of the ASCEND program to ensure the students have the tools and resources for success.

edTPA

On May 22nd, Dr. Martha Viator, edTPA coordinator, Dr. Leftwich and representatives from PEARSON hosted an all day edTPA training workshop event for Rowan faculty, P-12 partners and other higher education institutions. The training workshops supported those NEW to edTPA by offering a Deep Dive into the edTPA Handbook and Academic Language sessions. Training also supported those with SOME Knowledge of edTPA by offering a workshop in local evaluation. Finally, those with ADVANCED Knowledge were trained in Curriculum Inquiry and Embedding Signature Assignment and Assessments.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS (PDS)

The PDS Network has grown. The COE added two new PDSs this fall. The J. Harvey Rodgers and West Deptford Middle School (WDMS) were added to the network during the schools’ banner unveilings on September 18th (Rodgers) and September 29th (WDMS). With the addition of two new schools the PDS network has increased to nine schools.
Office of Clinical Experiences (OCE)

OCE has a newly updated website. The COE initiated a new policy requiring all students going out for a field placement to obtain a background clearance and an up-to-date TB test. Students must complete the background clearance through the NJ DOE as a “substitute teacher,” using Rowan’s codes. Students will not be permitted to go out for field placements without having completed the background clearance properly. The TB test requirement is not something new. OCE is now tracking it. The TB test should be recent (within six months of the start of the field placement). The COE initiated this policy as a result of more and more districts requiring the background clearance and TB test results. Many other universities within the state either have a similar policy or are in the process of implementing a similar policy.

Praxis Lab

The focus of the Praxis Lab has changed slightly. This year Praxis Core preparation will take priority. Students needing assistance can visit the Praxis Lab webpage and click Praxis help for multiple opportunities. Students can still work one on one in the lab for free or, for a small fee, attend two workshops conducted on multiple Saturdays. The Praxis Core Boot Camp is a workshop that consists of six 3-hour Saturday sessions and the Praxis Core Reboot Camp is a follow up workshop for students still challenged or have taken the exam without success. The Reboot Camp takes place two Saturdays. The camp offers three different 1½-hour sessions that focus on three different content areas. The camps have limited space, but if the demand is high more sections will be offered. All Praxis Lab opportunities require registrations and can be found on the Praxis Lab website.

Rowan Urban Teacher Academy (RUTA)

The Rowan Urban Teacher Academy (RUTA) is BACK! RUTA, a COE pipeline program for high school students interested in becoming teachers, returned after a two-year hiatus. Unlike previous RUTA’s, school districts now host the program. The ultimate goal of RUTA is to recruit high school students with the long-term goal of creating supports for individuals to become teachers. Over the summer, the Bridgeton School District hosted the Bridgeton-Rowan Urban Teacher Academy (BRUTA) and students worked with Rowan faculty to plan and teach mini-lessons and activities to Bridgeton elementary school children in academic summer programs.