

# Innovation in EDUCATION

FALL 2018



Access, Success and Equity ... Turning Research Into Practice



## Message from the dean

In the last several years, the College of Education introduced a number of initiatives that are now flourishing.

We deepened our relationships with county colleges and the community, launching a 3 + 1 B.A. degree at Rowan College at Burlington County this fall.

Additionally, we are expanding our professional development schools network. This summer, we offered the Rowan Urban Teacher Academy in three locations — Camden, Bridgeton and Pleasantville — with districts funding the local programs.

Project IMPACT (Increasing Male Practitioners and Classroom Teachers) welcomed its third cohort this fall. Its growing number of transfer students has solidified the program as a Rowan University and community collaboration.

Our new associate dean for faculty and student affairs, Dr. Cori Brown, is bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to our efforts. We also hired our largest group of new faculty and lecturers in recent years, who have gained a broad range of expertise around the country.

Browse through these pages to meet our outstanding faculty and students and learn more about exciting happenings in the College of Education.

In service,

Dr. Monika Williams Shealey  
Dean

## Summer of RUTA: High school students try out careers in education

What better way to learn about a career than to take it for a test drive?

This is the concept behind the Rowan Urban Teacher Academy (RUTA), a two-week summer program for rising high school juniors and seniors that introduces them to teaching and encourages them to consider a career in urban districts or high-needs subject areas.

This year, the Pleasantville, Bridgeton and Camden school districts held their own programs, with support from Rowan faculty. Students planned and taught mini-lessons, met with educators and toured Rowan's Glassboro campus.

"Students learn to build a learning community, but they also learn basic foundations of the educational field," said Daniel Tulino, professor-in-residence at Quarter Mile Lane School in Bridgeton and a RUTA teacher. "On top of that, they learn some critical approaches to education."

Eshe Price, professor-in-residence at the Dorothy L. Bullock Elementary School in Glassboro and RUTA teacher, believes RUTA opens students' eyes to careers in education.

"We try to expose them to other roles within the field of education as well," Price said. "Maybe they want to be counselors, principals or assessment coordinators."

"The districts that host RUTA are urban settings, so we hope the activities will encourage participants to return to these communities to teach," said Dr. Stacey Leftwich, executive director of the Office of Educator Support and Partnerships.

**Dean Monika Williams Shealey** (far left) meets with students during the Camden RUTA graduation. Rowan RUTA coordinators **Nina Nagib** (second from left, standing) and **Sharada Krishnamurthy** (far right) led their program.





New faculty and instructors bring a diverse range of experience to the College. Back row, from left: **Janet Iles**, **Erica Watson-Brown**, **Johari Sykes-Ratliff**, **Dr. Justin Freedman**, **Dr. Adam Alvarez**, **Dr. Huan-Tang Lu** and **Dr. Jeremy Glazer**. Front row, from left: **Melissa Lieberman**, **Dr. Kate Seltzer**, **Dr. Brooke Hoffman**, **Dr. Nikki Rotas**, **Dean Monika Williams Shealey**, **Dr. Angela Beale-Tawfeeq**, **Dr. Alicia Drelick** and **Dr. Casey Woodfield**.

## College welcomes largest group of faculty and lecturers

**F**ourteen new faculty members and lecturers are infusing the College of Education with fresh ideas and experiences.

“The fact that we’ve hired our largest group of faculty in recent years speaks to the growing prominence of our college nationally. We have faculty from across the country, as well as practitioners who are serving as lecturers in our college,” said Dean Monika Williams Shealey.

### Language, Literacy & Sociocultural Education

**Dr. Adam Alvarez**, assistant professor  
Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh  
M.Ed. University of Texas at Austin  
B.A. Huston-Tillotson University

**Dr. Jeremy Glazer**, assistant professor  
Ph.D. Stanford University  
M.S.Ed. University of Pennsylvania  
B.A. Amherst College

**Dr. Brooke Hoffman**, lecturer  
Ph.D., M.S.Ed. Temple University  
B.S.Ed. Messiah College

**Janet Iles**, lecturer  
M.A., B.S. Bob Jones University  
M.Ed. Bloomsburg University

**Dr. Kate Seltzer**, assistant professor  
Ph.D. The City University of New York Graduate Center  
M.S. The City University of New York, Lehman College  
B.A. George Washington University

### Educational Services and Leadership

**Dr. Huan-Tang Lu**, assistant professor  
Ph.D. Ohio University  
M.S. State University of New York at Plattsburgh  
B.S. National Taiwan University

### Interdisciplinary and Inclusive Education

**Dr. Alicia Drelick**, lecturer  
Ed.D. Drexel University, School of Education  
M.Ed. Cabrini University, School of Education  
B.S. University of Delaware, School of Education

**Dr. Justin Freedman**, assistant professor  
Ph.D. Syracuse University  
M.Ed., B.A. The College of New Jersey

**Dr. Nikki Rotas**, assistant professor  
Ph.D., M.A., H.B.A. University of Toronto  
B.Ed. University of Ottawa

**Johari Sykes-Ratliff**, lecturer  
M.A., B.A. Rowan University

**Erica Watson-Brown**, lecturer  
M.Ed. Concordia University  
B.A. Cabrini University

**Dr. Casey Woodfield**, assistant professor  
Ph.D., M.S. Syracuse University  
B.A. Providence College

### Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Education

**Dr. Angela Beale-Tawfeeq**, associate professor and department chair  
Ph.D. The Florida State University  
M.S., B.A. Howard University

**Melissa Lieberman**, lecturer  
M.A. San Jose State University  
B.S. Sonoma State University

## Project IMPACT scholars reach new benchmarks

For the third consecutive year, Project IMPACT (Increasing Male Practitioners and Classroom Teachers) scholars were inducted into the program with a tie-tying ceremony in September, the first step on their journey to become educators.

In this program, designed to recruit and retain young men of color as educators, Project IMPACT scholars continue to reach new benchmarks. In May, students who passed the Praxis Core test were outfitted with brand-new blazers during the blazer ceremony.

As students build skills for the future, administrators continue to refine the program using ongoing feedback from mentors, scholars and faculty, said Dr. Stacey Leftwich, executive director, Office of Educator Support and Partnerships.

Mentors from the Men of Color Network provide encouragement and guidance for the scholars throughout their time as College of Education students.

Scholars also engage with P-12 students in the community. “Several school districts have asked if our Project IMPACT students can come to their schools,” Leftwich said. “The schools are providing opportunities for them to work with students even before they are required to go into the field.”

George Guy, principal of the Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill, works with two mentees. “I have definitely seen my mentees doing what they came to Rowan and the College of Education to do, which is work very hard, get high grades and make inroads in the academic arena,” he said.

From left: **Amiel Holliday, Samir Jones, Deric Luciano, Jacob Brown, Cameron Freeman and Noah Austin** are progressing through the Project IMPACT program.



## Cori Brown named associate dean of faculty and student affairs

Bringing more than a decade of Rowan experience, Dr. Cori Brown has eagerly embraced her new role as associate dean of faculty and student affairs.

“It’s a very exciting time to be in the College of Education,” she said. “We’re growing rapidly as a University. We want to ensure the College is maintaining and growing research opportunities and opportunities for faculty development and collaboration, not only within a department, but across the departments,” she said. “This will enable us to adopt more of an interdisciplinary mindset in our teaching, learning experiences and research.”

She looks forward to continuing innovative program delivery formats, such as the B.A. in Inclusive Education that she helped spearhead. “We’re so pleased it is beginning its first semester, not only here on the Glassboro campus, but we’re also launching it on the Rowan College at Burlington County campus.”

Brown is enthusiastic about working with the College’s 14 new faculty members and lecturers. “They are a fantastically diverse group of people and bring interesting prior training and experiences,” she said, noting that many new faculty bring grants and cross-university partnerships to Rowan. “Collaboration in higher education is another key element propelling us in this next century of teaching and learning.”


Dean Monika Williams Shealey touted Brown’s breadth of experience and student-centric focus. “She will be the advisor for the College of Education Student Advisory Council. That group will grow and have an even greater voice in the governance of our College,” she said.


**ABOVE: Dr. Cori Brown**, the College’s new associate dean of faculty and student affairs, eagerly embraced the many facets of her new position.



College of Education faculty and students welcomed generations of Profs to campus as the University celebrated Rowan Goes Hollywood, the theme of Homecoming Weekend 2018.

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**ON THE COVER:** Cameron Freeman (right) welcomes his Project IMPACT brother, Yoosuf Byrd, into the program. Read more about Project IMPACT on page 3.

## Student reaching for the heights

**H**ealth and physical education major Marcus King, '20, not only wants to become a teacher — he wants to be an *exceptional* teacher.

“I want to be someone who can really communicate with students. If they need help with something, I want them to be able to talk to me almost like a guidance counselor while I’m also teaching physical education,” said the Willingboro resident.

In addition to being inspired by two high school teachers, he has an extraordinary example at home. His mother, Denise King, principal of the B. Bernice Young Elementary School in Burlington Township, was the New Jersey 2016 National Distinguished Principal. “I’m trying to catch up to her, honestly,” said King, who plans to pursue a doctorate.

A member of the inaugural Project IMPACT (Increasing Male Practitioners and Classroom Teachers) cohort, King



From left: Marcus King, Dean Monika Williams Shealey, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker and Congressman Donald Norcross spoke in favor of the STRIVE Act.

praised his mentor as well as his fellow Project IMPACT scholars. “If you do something good, you will get high praise from us. If you’re slacking a little bit, then we help lift you up,” he said.

In March, King spoke at an event at Rowan’s Camden campus to back the STRIVE (Supporting the Teaching Profession Through Revitalizing Investments in Valuable Educators) Act, which addresses teacher shortages throughout the country.

“The STRIVE Act is here to make education a focal point in the nation,” King said.

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