Preparation Leaders in the Jesuit Tradition to Serve Diverse Communities

The Education Department has as its foundations the theme, “Effective Leaders in the Jesuit Tradition.” The charisms of cura personalis, magis, men and women for and with others, and contemplation in action are at the foundation of academic, career/occupational, and personal/social activities and events within the department. This recognition is part of the Conceptual Framework which guides all activities within all programs – undergraduate and graduate.

Field Experiences

Each candidate within initial certification programs completes at least 100 hours of field experience prior to a full-time, 14-week student teaching experience. Advanced program candidates fulfill a minimum of 100 hours pre-internship experiences before completing internships ranging from 250 (administration) to 700 (counselor education) hours.

Collaboration between the unit and our school partners has been a focal point of our programs for the past 15 years. The department and her members continually build relationships with several local schools and districts to enhance field experiences for candidates and to better understand current practice and diverse demands of the profession in its field settings. The department has had partnerships with several area public and private schools for its initial certification programs – Elementary Education: Liberty, Lothrop, Holy Name, Kellom, and Spring Lake; and Secondary Education: Jesuit Academy, Bryan Middle School, Skutt Catholic High, and Creighton Prep High School. Field experience opportunities are required at the foundation, methods, specialization, and application levels of instruction. These experiences are scheduled in public and private school settings where students are ethnically, racially, and socioeconomically diverse.

MEN AND WOMEN FOR AND WITH OTHERS offers a means by which one can share his/her gifts for the benefits of others. It promotes the building of inclusive classroom and school communities where equality, equity, human rights and responsibilities, and human dignity are fostered. Men and women for and with others also leads to service-learning activities and the promotion of social justice within education and society. The Education Department’s candidates focus on serving diverse communities through field experiences and faculty/student service and research projects.

Service and Research Projects

Faculty and candidates within the Education Department participate in a variety of service and research projects within diverse settings. A sample of the projects are listed below:

Educare Grant – A partnership with the early childhood programs at Educare of Omaha North/South, James R. Russell Child Development Center, and Holy Name Catholic School in an effort to improve the beginning educational experiences of young children in marginalized communities.

Completely Kids – A partnership with Liberty Elementary School which targets English Language Learners from low socioeconomic backgrounds who need assistance in the area of literacy.

Moments of Joy – A research project recognizing the voice of teacher education candidates’ events and/or experiences within diverse field experience settings as a means of promoting professional efficacy.

Immigrant and Refugee Students – A research project conducted within selected school districts experiencing a significant increase in immigrant and refugee populations to develop an outline of best practices.

Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN) Activities – Activities led by teacher education candidates in underserved schools, such as “Read Across America.”

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Duggan Center for Ignatian Spirituality.