

The College of Education at Kean University

Dr. Susan Polirstok, Dean

Kean University was founded in 1855 as a teacher training institution for Newark which eventually to become Newark State Teachers College. When the college relocated to our current site in Union New Jersey, it became Kean College and then Kean University. Today Kean is a comprehensive University that serves almost 16,000 students at the Undergraduate, Master's and Doctoral levels. Our mission is to prepare students to think critically, creatively and globally; to adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments; and to serve as active and contributing members of their communities. Kean offers a wide range of demanding programs dedicated to excellence in instruction and academic support services necessary to assure it's socially, linguistically, and culturally diverse students the means to reach their full potential. The University seeks to combine excellence with equity in providing opportunities for all students.

Kean's College of Education is the largest producer of teachers for the State of New Jersey and we have 37 different state-approved programs in education. We have been accredited by the National Council on Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since 1954. We work to prepare teachers who can think creatively and critically in developing instruction based on depth of content, learning variables, formative and summative assessment, appreciation for racial, ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity, facility with the latest technologies for teaching and a commitment to sustained achievement and success for all. Faculty from across the various colleges on campus work collaboratively to develop our teacher candidates because we believe it truly takes a whole university to educate a teacher.

We are committed to high standards for teachers and require our prospective candidates to present a 3.0 gpa and a passing score on the Praxis I examination in order to be admitted to the College of Education. With our school district partners, primarily urban rim districts, we provide outstanding field and clinical internships which contribute to the success of our graduates. We currently have 23 Professional Development Schools in our network where we assign a Kean faculty member 2.5 days per week to work not only with our teacher candidates but with cooperating teachers and other school personnel for the purpose of strengthening our collective programs. We are proud that our teacher candidates have earned an overall 100% pass rate on the Praxis II examinations since 2009. In addition, as an exit measure of competence, our teacher candidates complete a comprehensive project called the Teacher Work Sample, which evaluates unit planning, lesson development, differentiated instruction for students with special needs and English Language Learners, unit outcomes, and candidate reflection on his/her teaching performance. Through these measures, high standards for admission, strong clinical experiences, excellent liberal arts and content preparation, and a comprehensive performance exit measure, we believe that we produce outstanding teachers for New Jersey. In fact, both the 2012-2013 and the 2013-2014 New Jersey Teachers of the Year are Kean graduates, who exemplify the best of what Kean University has to offer its teacher candidates.