

Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences

Table 1. Teacher Education Advisory Board Membership (2023-2025)

District/Organization	Representative(s)	Role
Bellmore-Merrick CHSD	Joe Famularo	Superintendent
East Meadow UFSD	Debra Harley, Jim Mendonis	Directors (Math/Science, Student Services)
Freeport School District	Kishore Kuncham, LaShonda Gardenhire	Superintendent, Administrator
Garden City UFSD	Kusum Sinha	Superintendent
Mineola UFSD	Mike Nagler	Superintendent
Roosevelt UFSD	Eric Nezowitz	Assistant Superintendent HR
Valley Stream 13	Judi LaRocca	Superintendent
West Hempstead UFSD	Lisa Minicozzi, Dan Rehman	Principal, Superintendent
Westbury UFSD	Pat Mueller	Science Director
NYC Charter Schools	Leatrice Whitney	Teacher, Adjunct Faculty
NYC PE	Diana Stein	Physical Education
CUNY Bronx	Mike Porcelli	Technical Education Advocate

Table 2. Advisory Board Meeting Cycles (2023-2025)

Date	Location	Key Topics/Outcomes
May 18, 2023	Adelphi University Center Room 214	Candidate feedback (literacy, math/science strengths); AI in education; Teacher Residency Grant; Tuition voucher discussion
November 8, 2023	Ruth S. Harley University Center	CAEP focus groups; Teacher pipeline initiatives; Residency program expansion; AI conference planning
October 21, 2024	Adelphi Alumni House	CAEP data review; Tech Ed certification development; Pipeline updates; Longevity Institute
May 6, 2025	Adelphi University	Teaching simulations; CAEP site visit planning; SEL rubric feedback; Tech Ed partnerships
October 23, 2025	Adelphi Alumni House	Candidate skills discussion; Learning Sciences program; Pipeline updates; District strategic alignment

Table 3. Advisory Board Feedback on Program Completers' Preparedness

Summary of instances where district members who have hired program completers provided feedback on their preparedness

Date	Agenda Item/Prompt	District Representatives	Feedback Provided
May 18, 2023	Feedback from districts on our candidates and graduates	Debra Harley (East Meadow), Joe Forniero (Bellmore), Judy LaRocca (Valley Stream 13), Lisa Minicozzi (West Hempstead), Mike Nagler (Mineola), Kishore Kuncham (Freeport), Leatrice Whitney (Charter)	Debra Harley: Math/science at secondary level outstanding; Joe Forniero: Weakness in elementary literacy knowledge; Judy LaRocca: Adelphi prepares candidates well, needs more literacy courses; Mike Nagler: Need more adolescent candidates, especially science
November 8, 2023	CAEP: Focus group interviews for principals who've hired our alumni in the last 1-2 years; Feedback on our programs	Dan Rehman (West Hempstead - hired 2 graduates), Lisa Minicozzi (West Hempstead), Debra Harley (East Meadow), Mike Nagler (Mineola - hired 10 graduates), Erik Nezowitz (Roosevelt)	Erik Nezowitz: Graduates strong in content but lack consistent application of equity-based practices; Candidates need preparation to respond to needs of diverse learners
October 21, 2024	CAEP accreditation: Data review by stakeholders; Comments solicited on Danielson Framework data	Debra Harley (East Meadow), Joe Forniero (Bellmore), Lisa Minicozzi (West Hempstead), Mike Porcelli (Tech Ed), Leatrice Whitney (Charter)	Debra Harley: Graduates have more grit and responsiveness to feedback, want to improve; General consensus: Data shows candidates well prepared for student teaching and full-time employment
May 6, 2025	SEL rubric: Feedback requested on tool to identify candidates who struggle with social-emotional skills	Mike Nagler (Mineola), Lisa Minicozzi (West Hempstead), Debra Harley (East Meadow), Joe Famularo (Bellmore)	Mike Nagler: Get struggling candidates out of program early so they don't waste money; Lisa Minicozzi: Rename SEL to Habits of mind; General: Need to teach SEL explicitly in college education classes
October 23, 2025	Thoughts on future educator preparation and job placement	Joe Famularo (Bellmore), Diana Stein (NYC PE), Judy LaRocca (Valley Stream), LaShonda Gardenhire (Freeport), Pat Mueller (Westbury), Mike Nagler (Mineola), Lisa Minicozzi (West Hempstead)	Joe Famularo: Candidates should understand district Strategic Plans; Diana Stein: Need ability to connect with students, all teachers teach ELLs/SWDs; Judy LaRocca: Integration of skills across specialties; LaShonda Gardenhire: Adaptability,

			management integrated with content, tech savvy; Pat Mueller: Emphasis on hands-on experience; Mike Nagler: De-emphasis on content, more on skills
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Source: *Teacher Education Advisory Board Meeting Minutes (2023-2025)*

Teacher Education Advisory Board
May 18, 2023
12-1pm
(Lunch is Provided)
Location: Adelphi University Center Room 214

Present: Judi LaRocca (Valley Stream 13), Lisa Minicozzi (West Hempstead), Dan Rehman (West Hempstead), Mary Jean McCarthy, Leatrice Whitney (South Bronx Community Charter School), Michael Nagler (Mineola), Joe Forniero (Bellmore), Kishore Kuncham (Freeport), Debra Harley (East Meadow)

Minutes:

1. College updates
 - a. New journal for high school students to publish scholarship
 - b. 2 new PhD programs
 - c. Greece study abroad program for alumni
2. Artificial Intelligence in pre K-12 Teacher Preparation
 - a. There will be an international forum/conference on AI in pK-12 classrooms
 - b. Administrators are invited to present
3. NYS Department of Labor Teacher Residency Funding grant opportunity
 - a. West Hempstead
4. CCAP courses
5. PLAN - Performance based learning and assessment
6. Teacher education accreditation (choose 1-2 to discuss):
 - a. *Collaborative development, review, or revision of instruments and evaluations*
 - b. *Collaborative development, review, or revision of the structure and content of the clinical activities*
 - c. *Mutual involvement in ongoing decision-making about partnership structure and operations*
 - d. *Agreed upon provisions to ensure diversity of clinical settings*
 - e. *Creation of opportunities for candidates to work with diverse P-12 students who have differing needs*
7. Topics of discussion for next academic year

Feedback from districts on our candidates and graduates:

1. Debra Harley (East meadow) - those who do the work, do well; those who stop after going home don't
 - a. Math and science at secondary level are outstanding

2. Joe Forniero (Bellmore): Weakness is knowledge of literacy in elementary; you need to know all literacy and differentiate based on students' needs; we need to default into phonetics then ramp up from there; it's about having all of those tools; the complicated part is to know which approach is appropriate for which students to help those students
3. Judy LaRocca - Adelphi prepares candidates well; elementary needs more than one literacy course.
4. Leatrice Whitney - The state differentiates between secondary English education and reading recovery/literacy which is problematic; need to intertwine the two areas
 - a. I'm in project based learning approach to content
5. Lisa Minicozzi - we need to partner with school districts to get our students in classrooms
 - a. Can we incentivize mentor teachers? Ex. a 3 credit reduction; highlight them in some capacity; CASH -
 - b. Mike Nagler pays Adelphi to pay the mentor teacher; Adelphi give the voucher to the district and the district gives the credits to teachers to get advanced certs
6. Mike Nagler - residency program allows time to do all the hands on work; the role of clinical supervisor is key; we need more adolescent people, especially science people
 - a. Increase in AI will shed light that there is no need to teach content
 - b. We're going to have problems in the way we teach and what we teach; we need shift away from memorizing content to problem solving; we need that at both levels - at the university level- hyper focused on content; secondary usually follows suit
7. Mary Jean McCarthy - Sam Sanchez, Adelphi alum, helped lead masters seminar project; How can we think about schools, Adelphi and communities that work together
8. Kishore Kuncham - would like to see how much teacher leadership is incorporated into our programs as we're evolving into more culturally responsive/ sensitive curriculum; how are teachers being resilient to being leaders in the classroom and their commitment to wanting to work in district with high needs; not wanting to work on comfortable places but be the comfort in unwanted places. Can teacher cert be combined with admin cert program?
9. Mike Nagler - Residents who finish then get placed on payroll
10. MJ -State should have a policy that takes something off plate of teachers if they are mentors
11. Judy - We're short on teachers; how do we encourage diverse candidates? Vouchers at district level would be good for paying for teachers to get additional certs
12. Leatrice - need workshops and tools to sustain teachers during this stressful times
13. Mike Nagler - Board of Regents will put out guidance on Regents - provide alternate graduation requirements in lieu of regents

Mentor teachers

Keep vouchers at district level

Inservice credits instead of payment

Won't give it unless going towards certification

Ruth S. Ammon College of Education and Health Sciences

Teacher Education Advisory Board

November 8, 2023

12 - 1:30pm

(Lunch is Provided)

Location: Adelphi University Ruth S. Harley University Center Room 113/114

Attendance:

- 1. Mike Porcelli – CUNY Bronx – advocate for trade education**
- 2. JM Ignatiadis – Senior Director of Student Success CEHS Adelphi**
- 3. Mary Jean McCarthy – Clinical Assoc Professor, Childhood Education Adelphi**
- 4. Diana Schwinge – Professor of TESOL, co-Department Chair of School of Education**
- 5. Lisa Minicozzi – Principal of Elementary, West Hempstead, Adjunct at Adelphi**
- 6. Emily Kang – Assoc Dean CEHS Adelphi**
- 7. Dan Rehman – Sup West Hempstead**
- 8. Eric Nezowicz – AS of HR in Roosevelt**
- 9. Kevin Mercier – professor of PE Adelphi**
- 10. Jim Mendonis – East Meadow Dir SS**
- 11. Debra Harley- East Meadow Dir Math Sci**
- 12. Zach Zeller – president of FTA; history adolescent teacher candidate**
- 13. Judy LaRooca - Sup of VS 13**
- 14. Joe Famularo – Sup Bellmore Merrick**
- 15. Mike Nagler – Sup Mineola**
- 16. Kusum Sinha – Sup Garden City**
- 17. Alyssa Soohoo – Asst Professor Early Childhood Education**
- 18. Leatrice Whitney – teacher KIPP schools**
- 19. Matt Wright – chair of Physics Dept at Adelphi**

1. Updates

- a. Congratulations: Bellmore Schools Superintendent Dr. Famularo has been chosen as the 2024 New York State Superintendent of the Year; Garden City School District Superintendent Dr. Kusum Sinha gave an interview on Channel 4 news on AI application
- b. International conference on AI in the context of pre K-12 classrooms (August 15-August 16, 2024)
- c. Teacher Residency Grant award (\$300,000) with West Hempstead School District
- d. Greece trip: July 22-August 5, 2024
- e. Teaching fellows and teaching collaboratives

2. CAEP
 - a. Updates
 - b. Focus group interviews for principals who've hired our alumni in the last 1-2 years
 - c. Feedback on our programs
3. Input and comments from the floor

Minutes:

1. AI international conference Aug 15-16, 2024 in PAC – Dean Wang asked Advisory Board (AB) members and their teachers to attend this conference
 - a. Free to AB members; teachers negotiated rate; free to invited students
 - b. Please recommend keynote speakers
2. Sharing:
 - a. Lisa Minicozzi - Early Childhood residency – reimagine how we offered courses; connection between coursework and field – work with Alyssa Soohoo
 - b. Mary Jean McCarthy shared how she reimaged science methods and residency
 - i. Mineola:
 1. 6 teacher candidates spend course time teaching in STEM lab
 2. Enriching the authenticity of what they're experiencing
 - ii. Valley Stream 13: How can graduate students in Master Seminar works with children – Judy (superintendent) said help the striving readers; work with literacy coach to identify students in need of support from data; our Masters Seminar students tutor 2x week striving readers.
 - c. West Hempstead
 - i. Lisa Minicozzi – summer literacy experience worked with Evelyn O'Connor (rising 1st graders) – we had 4-5 student teachers who needed hours for 1:1 reading intervention (5 weeks – jumped 2 reading levels)
 - d. Leatrice – KIPP school - currently model used is iReady – not feasible for teachers; would like to see similar summer literacy program at her school
 - e. Kevin Mercier – PE can help with before school activity programs – worked with Hempstead, Freeport, Bethpage during sabbatical – 5th year students (graduates) those who were already subs can help run the before school activity programs; research shows that students who engage in physical activity before school enhances learning;
 - f. East Meadow: Teacher pipeline – problem is changing student demographic but unchanging teacher demographics: use foundations of ed class that seniors take – students can get college credits if they move towards teaching; to attract students to teaching. Speaking with teachers next week and push with guidance counselors
 - g. Zack (FTA): I didn't know most of this information. This information would be invaluable to members. Would be happy to host any of you as guest speaker. Let's find ways to disseminate information to underclassman.

- h. Roosevelt – Erik Nezowitz – shared about Emely Garcia – teacher who was a student in Roosevelt; parents are getting involved; orientation workshops set up for summer 2024. Candidates need to be prepared to respond to needs of diverse learners. While graduates are strong in content, they lack consistent application of equity-based practices in the field.
- i. Leatrice – important to focus on teacher mental health; teachers are stressed; need to create opportunities for self-care
- j. Mike Porcelli
 - i. Please include shop classes in our schools as much as possible; best way to learn STEM
 - ii. Primary Engineer
 - iii. March 2 Success – help students self-assess what they want to learn

CAEP focus group

Dan Rehman, Lisa Minicozzi (have hired 2 graduates), Debra Harley, Mike Nagler (have hired 10 graduates)

Spark – good book

Mineola

Jr – CSC course Dual enrollment

Sr – take actual college course – Mineola can take care of that (TESOL1?); any elective course that Adelphi will honor as 120 credits

Honor SUNY tuition rate

To Do:

1. Joe Famularo – Bellmore Merrick – wants residents – email him to schedule follow up meeting
2. Do background research on Mineola model – talk to Chris Storm, then set up a meeting with Mike Nagler
 - a. Mike wants Adolescent candidates

**Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2024
11:30am**

**Adelphi University Alumni House Board Room
Agenda**

Present: XL Wang, Eric Nezowitz (Roosevelt), Mary Jean McCarthy, Emily Ledesma, Esther Kogan, Carl Mirra, Kevin Mercier, Debra Harley (East Meadow), Joe Forniero (Bellmore Sup), Mike Porcelli (Tech), Leatrice Whitney (alum and adjunct), Lisa Minicozzi, Diana Schwinge, Emily Kang, Matthew Wright (Adelphi Physics), Marc Macaluso (remote guest speaker on Longevity)

- Dean's welcome and new member introduction (Xiao-lei Wang)
 - PhD in Learning Sciences launching in Fall 2025
 - PhD in Global Higher Education - development in progress
- Announcement of Critical Debates in Humanities, Science, and Global Justice journal - editor is Rita Verma; open to all high school students to publish works
- Longevity and wellness in the school context (Marc Macaluso)
 - Leatrice: curriculum will be key in talking about longevity
 - Kevin: we can create a Longevity module and eventually a certificate, train teachers in being educators who can roll out a mini unit on longevity
 - Diana: I wonder about the role of mental health in longevity studies?
 - Marc: single biggest criteria for long and happy life was love
 - Lisa: 40% of parents are overwhelmed on a daily basis; wondering if we could provide more workshops for parents; perhaps held by local elderly; needed people to fill non teaching positions (e.g. bus monitors) but didn't get a response
 - we reached out to local community elderly population and got a good response. Had to increase the pay; pay them 4 hours to work 2 hours.
 - XL: thinking about establishing a longevity institute
- Tech Ed certification
 - This is a new cert requested by several districts, including Plainview Old Bethpage, because there is a dire shortage of tech ed certified teachers in downstate NY, especially Long Island
 - We'd like to partner with districts that have the facilities to be a part of program development and implementation
 - Debra: contact Tony MacIntosh, our tech director in East Meadow, who can contribute to the development of the program
 - Mike Porcelli: I'd like to be involved as well. I have long advocated for career and technical education. We should partner with local businesses
 - Matt: Dan Cocciolo should also be invited.
 - Emily: We will keep you posted on the program development at our next meeting
- Teacher Education Pipeline updates

- We have pipelines developed for East Meadow, Freeport, Roosevelt and Mineola. Each district has a slightly different model depending on their context and needs.
- CAEP accreditation (Emily Kang) [slides](#)
 - Data review by stakeholders (data snapshot; Comparing Teaching Performance at the EPP Level Using the Danielson Framework: University Supervisor vs. Teacher Mentor Ratings 2023-2024 AY)
 - Comments:
 - Debra: Your graduates seem to have more grit and responsiveness to feedback. They want to do improve and do a better job.
 - Everyone: the data seems to show that candidates are well prepared for student teaching and for full time employment as classroom teachers.
 - Esther: Candidate feedback on their preparation to use technology was the lowest score on the exit survey. We've addressed that by adding a technology course into the teacher education program last year.
- Comments from the floor

Teacher Education Advisory Board Minutes

May 6, 2025

Present: Xiao-lei Wang, Matthew Wrights, Leatrice Whitney, Debra Harley, Mike Porcelli, Jim Mendonis, Esther Kogan, student, Emily, Shawn Wightman, Diana Schwinge, Alyssa Soohoo, Carl Mirra, Joe Famularo, Mike Nagler, Lisa Minicozzi, Mary Jean McCarthy, Emily Kang

1. Longevity Institute – summer training 2 half days
2. Teaching Simulations – partnering with former Dean of Pace to trying this out, first with our Adelphi faculty
3. CAEP – please save the date for the virtual site visit: Nov 2-4, 2026
 - a. Emily will provide sample interview questions
4. Teacher ed pipeline updates
 - a. Mineola – coming to campus fall
 - b. Freeport – coming to campus fall
 - c. East Meadow – 85 students taking teaching course on their campus
 - d. Mineola - Teacher Assistant contract so that those in pipeline can get early experience
5. SEL rubric – we would like feedback on this tool that we developed to identify candidates who struggle with these skills
 - a. Based the rubric on NYSED
 - b. Suggestion: Rename SEL to Self awareness; X factor (Nagler); Habits of mind (Minicozzi)
 - c. K-12 we don't teach SEL; we need to teach this explicitly in our college education classes
 - d. Get them out of the program early on (Nagler) so they don't waste money
 - e. New faculty Jenny Caruso, SEL expert, will provide PD to Adelphi faculty in fall
6. Tech Ed – Emily and Diana provided update on program to address shortage of tech ed teachers
 - a. We need partnerships with districts who have tech classrooms.
 - b. Mineola can help – they have Fab Lab (fabrication lab)

Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 2025
12:00pm-1:00pm
Adelphi University Angello Alumni House
Agenda

- Dean's welcome and updates
- Thoughts on future educator preparation and job placement
 - Joe Famularo (Bellmore) - candidates should understand Strategic Plan for districts so when they come into district can assimilate well
 - VS HS: Expect that the new district to take on responsibilities beyond the classroom (e.g. advisory, leading trips, etc)
 - Diana Stein (NYC PE) - ability to connect with students; why it's important to know your students; every teacher is a teacher of ELLs and SWDs (big push in our district)
 - Judy LaRocca (VS) - you have to be supporting all students; integration of skills within subject areas and specialties; Adelphi is good at helping people get additional certification; art, early childhood should know special education. It has to be integrated. I worry about multiple certifications as a driver because we have a lot of diversity in our classrooms. Sometimes dual cert becomes a barrier to become an educator
 - LaShonda Gardenhire (Freeport) - able to adapt to things that happen; management and content are integrated (routines integrated into practice); instructional technology (are they tech savvy in the right ways?)
 - Pat (Westbury) - emphasis on hands on experience; get them into classrooms and figure out their way
 - Mike Nagler (Mineola) - deemphasis on content; more on skills
 - Lisa Minicozzi = mirror PBL in portrait of graduate
- Learning Sciences - Suraj Uttamchandani
 - Overview of the program
- CAEP accreditation process and next steps
- Teacher education pipeline updates
- New Technology education certification program
- Opportunities
 - Educational simulation
 - Japan Society teacher professional development program
- Open discussion and announcements from the floor