

About Montclair State University

Since its founding in 1908, Montclair State University has had a rich history of innovation, distinction, and growth. Montclair State, a vital educational force, is ranked as one of the top universities in the region. Graduates from Montclair State University are well equipped with the skills needed to respond to today's dynamic environment, as well as future challenges and opportunities.

About the College of Education and Human Services

With a 100-year tradition of excellence and educational leadership, the College of Education and Human Services offers several advantages for those pursuing a graduate education:

- Outstanding and innovative graduate programs in the education and human services fields with nationally-recognized faculty and accreditation;
- Program faculty and staff dedicated to meeting the unique needs of our graduate population;
- Flexible study for both full-time students and working professionals, including weekend, accelerated, and Web-enhanced course options;
- Facilities that are on the cutting edge of learning and technology, including University Hall, the College's home, and the largest and most sophisticated building in the University's history.

About the Center of Pedagogy

The Center of Pedagogy is charged with initiating and coordinating all aspects of teacher education. The Center's work is informed by the belief that public education is critical to creating and sustaining a political and social democracy.



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MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY
College of Education and Human Services
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Montclair State University
Network for Educational Renewal
Center of Pedagogy



Dedicated to the
simultaneous renewal
of schools.



College of Education and Human Services

The **Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER)** is a school-university partnership dedicated to the simultaneous renewal of schools and teacher education through collaboration among Montclair State University and its partner school districts. In partner districts, teachers and administrators gain the opportunity to work with Montclair State University faculty at school sites and at the University. It is a model of partnership that effectively links all aspects of teacher preparation and development resulting in a continuous cycle of school, university, and teacher renewal.

What does it mean to be a member of the MSUNER?

When a district joins the MSUNER, and pays membership dues, it makes a commitment to work toward achieving the mission and goals of the Network. This also means accepting (and giving priority to) Montclair State University pre-service teachers for field placements and student teaching, and working with colleagues from Montclair State University and other partner districts to effect change and renewal in schools and in teacher education.

What does membership in the MSUNER mean for teachers?

Teachers in partner districts can apply to the University for appointment as Clinical Faculty members. We seek experienced, highly-effective teachers who see themselves as learners as well as teachers, who are eager to serve as role models and mentors for teacher education students, and who value culturally responsive teaching and teaching for critical thinking as central to their work with students.

Once appointed, Clinical Faculty members may serve as cooperating teachers, on-site education mentors, co-facilitators of workshops, co-teachers of student teaching seminars, and adjunct faculty for other courses at the University. They also have campus privileges including general parking and a Montclair State University ID card that allows access to Sprague Library and the ADP Center for Teacher Preparation and Learning Technologies.

All Clinical Faculty members take three required mini-courses on coaching and mentoring, teaching for critical thinking, and culturally-responsive teaching. For many Clinical Faculty members, the opportunity to meet, work, and study with colleagues from other districts who share their professionalism and commitment is a major benefit of membership in the MSUNER.

How does the MSUNER contribute to school renewal?

In many MSUNER partner schools, Clinical Faculty members meet regularly as a group with student teachers to discuss important issues of teaching, learning, and mentoring. This climate of professionalism and spirit of inquiry contributes to the renewal of schools and teacher education.

The MSUNER offers a wide array of professional development programs and activities that enhance teachers' knowledge and skills and help create a climate of continuous improvement in Network schools.

- Professional Development Series: A series of mini-courses on a wide variety of topics related to teaching and learning.
- Summer Conference: An annual conference each June where grant recipients share their research and best practices with their colleagues through a series of conference presentations and poster sessions.
- Technology Workshops and Annual Conference: MSUNER sponsors technology workshops each semester and an annual January technology conference through the ADP Center for Teacher Preparation and Learning Technologies. MSUNER teachers and administrators participate in workshops on integrating technology into the curriculum.
- Teacher Study Groups: Each district receives up to \$1,000.00 to fund Teacher Study Groups in their district. Teachers work together over the course of the academic year on an area of professional interest or an academic project.
- Dodge Action Research Teams: Teams of six educators from partner school districts conduct a year-long intensive action research/self-study professional development experience that involves researching and transforming teaching practice.
- Teacher Incentive Grants: Grant amounts ranging from \$100-\$200 are awarded to teachers to work on a specific short-term project. The purpose of this grant is to encourage teachers to enhance student learning by experimenting with new teaching strategies and projects.

- Teachers as Scholars: teachers and administrators are provided an opportunity to immerse themselves in scholarly topics and issues in small, liberal arts seminars offered by University faculty. Seminars focus on three main areas: Great Lives and Literatures; Living, Learning, and the Arts; and Science Matters.

Finally, because the MSUNER is a member of the foremost national school and teacher education renewal organization, the National Network for Educational Renewal, MSUNER partners have the opportunity to participate in national conferences and forums devoted to school and teacher education renewal.

How do partner districts and clinical faculty contribute to teacher education renewal?

The importance of field-based teacher education to the overall quality and success of teacher education cannot be overestimated. Our expectation is that all students will have their student teaching experiences in network schools with Clinical Faculty members. This means our student teachers can learn from and with experienced, highly-effective teachers who understand and exemplify teaching for critical thinking. This also enables us to place our student teachers in schools where teachers collaborate with one another, take reflection seriously, and see themselves as learners as well as teachers.

We promote a co-teaching model for the student teaching experience. This allows the cooperating teacher and student teacher to share the classroom responsibilities and give more individual attention to the students.

In addition, Clinical Faculty members from partner schools serve on committees and task forces at the University, thus adding their valuable input into the renewal and development of the teacher education program at Montclair State University.

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