

SUCC Joins Partnership with Syracuse School

Special to The Press

Teachers at the T.W. Meacham Elementary School in Syracuse have hosted student teachers from State University College at Cortland since the early 1980s. This arrangement has been developed into a partnership of shared resources, teaching techniques and professional development programs.

This new teacher education partnership is beginning this semester, according to Donna DeSiato, principle of Meacham School. "We have enjoyed a good working relationship with the people at Cortland and I am pleased that the scope of our cooperation will increase in the months ahead," De Siato said.

James P. Henderson, assistant professor of education at Cortland, is working closely with DeSiato in the formation of the program between the two institutions. "This arrangement will permit Cortland students to obtain more hands-on experience in a wider range of classroom-related programs", he said.

According to Henderson, the traditional way that public schools cooperate with teacher preparation programs in colleges and universities is to host student teachers.

"Cortland students at Meacham will be working with the teachers in such areas as preparing demonstration lessons, developing micro-teaching lessons, and undertaking special projects

dealing with research and innovation," Henderson said. "Cortland students also will be able to work individually with Meacham students as tutors," he said.

Cortland, which offers the largest elementary teacher education program in New York state, has 1,150 majors in the Education department and about 1,000 graduate students in elementary education.

The Education Department established a student teaching center in Syracuse in 1987 to provide urban field experiences for education majors and to forge a link between theory and practice with city schools. About 20 Cortland students are placed in city schools each semester. About 8 students have been doing practice teaching at Meacham each year.

A joint committee of teachers and administrators at Meacham and Cortland undertook the formation of the partnership program, which has received the approval of the Syracuse City School Board.

"Tutorial programs and personal contact with Cortland students makes schooling more meaningful," DeSiato said. "Meacham students perceive Cortland students as positive role models, which should motivate the children to learn productively and remain in school," she said.

New students interested in majoring in Radio/TV or Dance at the State University College at Cortland may have to go elsewhere to find what they are looking for.

This is due to the recent decision of the college administration to eliminate these two concentrations from the Cortland curriculum, according to an announcement by President James M. Clark.

Three professors have been fired from both of the departments, as a result of this decision. Andor Czompo, Ann I. Czompo, and Bess R. Koval, have over 20 years each invested in the Physical Education Department.

"This decision will alter a strong Physical Education curriculum which cuts across the whole campus," Koval said. Dance classes required for Physical Education majors will be taught by adjunct professors, according to Clark. Assistant Professors Gina Daddario, David Hollenback and Robert Thompson are being terminated from the Radio/TV concentration of the Communications Department.

The six professors were notified of their dismissals on Friday, August 31, by Clark.

Daddario said she feels "we are being penalized for success."

Thompson said "the Radio and Television staff practically followed a recipe to build a successful department."

Clark said students accepted into the Radio/TV concentration as of September 1, 1990 will be able to receive their degrees. He said students not already accepted into the program by September 1 will be forced to transfer to another school or choose another major.

According to Communications Department records, approximately two-thirds of the 170 students waiting to be accepted into the department are interested in the Radio/TV concentration.

Clark said the reorganization process will join the Communications studies department with the Theater department. "We have cut the fat, now we are cutting into the bone," Clark said.

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