

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT NEUMANN UNIVERSITY

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NEUMANN UNIVERSITY TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM

Schools today confront a variety of emerging needs resulting from changing demographics, challenges to traditionally held values, expanding knowledge and knowledge bases, the rise of diverse communities, the inclusion of students with special learning needs into the traditional classroom, increases in violence, and a general devaluing of education. It is imperative that schools be staffed by a generation of teachers who are intelligent, knowledgeable, creative, reflective, responsive and committed to the uniqueness of each learner. The program of professional teacher preparation at Neumann University is fully committed to the academic preparation of teachers who are thoroughly trained in their specific academic disciplines as well as the general and specific principles of a pedagogy based on sound and relevant research, intuition, and experience. Seven important characteristics define the essence of the Neumann University teacher education program:

- **Excellence:** We encourage excellence in teaching, in advising, in curriculum, in programming. We model excellence and encourage the same in our students and in their work.
- **Enthusiasm:** *We create and nurture an atmosphere that encourages a vitality of spirit. In Greek this is “en theos” - - in the spirit. We do what we do in the spirit of Francis, the spirit of Clare, the spirit of God, the spirit of Neumann University.*
- **Collaborative Community:** *We work together to foster dialogue and discourse among one another and with our students.*
- **Responsible Ethical Professionalism:** *We hold ourselves and our students to the highest standards. We strive to model these standards in our work with our students and with one another.*

- **Transformation:** *We are always evolving as individuals. We acknowledge a connection with a broader human condition.*
- **Creative Curiosity:** *We create an atmosphere that encourages an on-going quest for learning, a thirst for knowledge. We create a sense of wonder in ourselves and in our students.*
- **Balance:** *The center of our mission is a healthy sense of balance between work and play. We listen as well as talk. We reflect as well as act.*