Students

In the Fall of 2000, when Dr. Cutler first became Dean, the College enrolled 1,220 undergraduate students in its major programs. In Fall 2012, that number climbed to 2,208 students, an increase of 81%. Most of our programs have obtained accreditation through national organizations or recognition through prestigious professional associations.

Graduate education in particular has grown under the Dean’s leadership. In the Fall of 2000, 1,039 graduate students enrolled in programs in the College of Education and Human Services. As of the Fall of 2011, that number rose to 1,812. This not only represents an increase of 74%, but also that the College enrolls close to half of all graduate students on the Montclair State University campus.

Overall, student enrollment grew, in both quantity and quality, from 2,259 to 4,231 undergraduate and graduate students, representing an increase of 87% in the size of the student body in ten years. Embedded in this was the growth of the teacher education program from 300 candidates a year in 2000 to over 700 a year currently.

The College has also made great strides in providing resources and facilities to serve our growing student body. The building of University Hall counts as a major accomplishment and milestone of Dr. Cutler’s tenure as Dean. This magnificent facility, the largest and most sophisticated building in the University’s history, is on the cutting edge of learning and technology. It houses fully-mediated classrooms and lecture halls; student lounges and meeting rooms; an intimate outdoor courtyard space; an Office of Career Services specifically geared to meet the needs of students in education and human services programs; and the ADP Center for Teacher Preparation and Learning Technologies.

The unwavering commitment that Dean Cutler has made to ensuring that all students in the College have outstanding experiences is evident not only in the high-quality academic programs and state-of-the-art facilities and resources, but in the perceptions of the students themselves.

“As a woman pursuing a career in higher education, I admire women who have paved the way and are mentors to those of us who will follow. Women like Ada Beth Cutler inspire me and teach me to keep reaching for my dream. I can’t wait to follow in her footsteps and mentor the next generation!”

Sarah Vandermark
Current Doctoral Student
PhD in Counselor Education program

“Since completing my degree at MSU, Dean Cutler has continued to be a mentor. No matter what our conversations entail, it is clear that she is concerned with how I am doing and feeling at different stages in my life. She has always made me feel as if there is no limit to what I can accomplish.”

Jasmine Hulin
BA in Family and Child Studies ’07
During her twelve years as Dean, Dr. Ada Beth Cutler has brought increased recognition for the already well-regarded College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University. Apart from new and continuing accreditation without any weaknesses or conditions from every accrediting body we work with, the accolades for our work have been numerous and impressive.

In 2002, the College was honored by the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) with the Best Practice in Support of Diversity Award. In 2007, it was named one of the ten leading schools of education by the George Lucas Educational Foundation and was featured in Edutopia magazine and in a video on their website.

Montclair State University has been recognized in the community for fostering a powerful relationship with its partner schools and creating a significant impact on student learning. In 2010, the University was selected by the Council of the Great City Colleges of Education to receive the Dr. Shirley S. Schwartz Urban Education Impact Award.

The University continues to be recognized as a leader among other institutions in the field of teacher preparation. The work of the College of Education and Human Services was recognized by the recent selection of Montclair State to participate in 100K in 10. Funded by the Carnegie Corporation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Google, and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, 100K in 10 has a mission to recruit, prepare, and retain 100,000 new STEM teachers in ten years. Montclair State is one of a small number of institutions and the only New Jersey institution selected for this initiative, which also includes Stanford, New York University, and the University of California at Berkeley.

In addition, Montclair State University continues to support urban school districts by acting as a host institution for the Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color (WW-RBF Fellowship). The University was chosen as one of only 27 campuses around the country for this prestigious program of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

The College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University also was selected as the recipient of the 2010 Wisniewski Award for Teacher Education from the Society of Professors of Education (SPE). The Wisniewski Award is named for Richard Wisniewski, past president and treasurer of the Society of Professors of Education, past president of AACTE and former Dean of the College of Education at the University of Tennessee. The purpose of the award is to recognize an institution that has made “singularly significant contributions to the theory and practice of teacher education.” For the past three years, College graduate programs in teacher preparation were ranked in the top 20 in the nation in the US News and World Report rankings of America’s Best Graduate Schools.

These are just a few examples of the recognition the College has received in recent years. This newsletter includes a look back on the College’s programs, services and achievements during the past decade under Dean Cutler’s leadership.
When I agreed to be interim dean of the College of Education and Human Services in June 2000, I had no idea what a journey I was about to begin! I thought I would be interim dean for a year and then go back to my beloved job of faculty member and director of our school-university partnership. Here I am twelve years later, completing the most satisfying and enriching chapter in my long career in education.

I have been asked many times over recent months to name the most important accomplishments of my deanship. I have talked and written about hiring and retaining top-notch faculty and staff members; planning and building our beautiful home in University Hall; introducing new undergraduate, master’s and doctoral programs; renewing our curriculum on an ongoing basis and nearly doubling our student body; winning numerous awards and accolades for our accomplishments; working on state and national policy matters; adding important centers that expand our capacity to enhance the quality of life in our region; helping to create and build the Ben Samuels Children’s Center; and many more milestones of the last twelve years. These are all important, but when I dig deep, there is something less tangible that has kept me going during my deanship. It is the ethos of the College of Education and Human Services that has sustained and inspired me.

The dictionary definition of ethos is “the character, disposition, or basic values peculiar to a specific people (community).” We are not a perfect community; there is no such entity. Despite or perhaps even because of our imperfections, we continually strive for self-improvement and renewal, guided by our shared commitment to building a better educated, healthier and more just democratic society. Too often these days, the term social justice is uttered with contempt and pejoration. In this community, the pursuit of equity, equal opportunity, protection and education for all members of our society is an ideal of the highest order and that makes me fiercely proud of this College and grateful to be dean.

In the end, this is why I will remain a member of this inspiring community as a faculty member. I can imagine no better place to call home than the College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University.
Since she was first appointed as Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, Dr. Ada Beth Cutler led the College through a number of academic transformations. She oversaw the hiring of 87 new faculty members, and the College now counts 117 faculty members overall. She has served as a mentor to many of these faculty members, regardless of their discipline. In Fall 2012, we will add five new faculty members to that number.

Faculty and Research

According to Dr. Monica Taylor, Associate Professor in the department of Curriculum and Teaching, “It has been a great joy and privilege to be nurtured as an academic by Dean Cutler. Dean Cutler has been the perfect balance of a mentor - she sets high standards for her faculty and challenges them to engage in rigorous, thoughtful, and significant work while still providing encouragement and support. She has been a role model to me through her administrative leadership, her commitment to social justice, and her determination and persistence as a woman in the academy.”

Suzanne McCotter, Associate Professor in the department of Counseling and Educational Leadership says, “When I came to Montclair State University in 2006, one of the main attractions was working with a Dean who had a clear vision for education on both micro and macro levels. Ada Beth Cutler has fulfilled and gone beyond my expectations. Her understanding of the landscape and context of education in local, state and national settings helps each of us think broadly about the ways in which our work fits into the ‘big picture’. At the same time, she thinks carefully about the immediate experiences here at MSU for both students and faculty. On a personal level, she’s challenged and nurtured my work, helping me consider and accept leadership positions and listening carefully to my ideas and concerns. Her willingness to consider non-traditional ways of working with students and programs has allowed us to try new and entrepreneurial ways of delivering our work and developing future leaders.”

Dean Cutler also worked to reorganize departments in ways that better supported the work of the faculty and met the needs of students. In the year 2000, there were six departments in the College: Curriculum and Teaching; Reading and Educational Media; HPPERLS (Health Professions, Physical Education and Leisure Studies); Counseling, Human Development, and Educational Leadership; Human Ecology; and Educational Foundations. There was no early childhood or elementary education program, and all teacher education students progressed through the same professional sequence. Special Education programs were located in the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Finally, what were then known as the Child Care Center and the Psychoeducational Center were merged into one program, the Ben Samuels Children’s Center, and given a new building.

In addition to the hiring of outstanding faculty members, the College achieved new levels of excellence in the areas of research and programmatic grants. Over the past twelve years, the College has received almost $34 million in grants. This includes the largest grant in University history, the $6.3 million grant to establish the Newark-Montclair Urban Teacher Residency Program, which is also highlighted on the US Department of Education website as a model proposal.
Dean Cutler has been an active contributor and leader for education policy and programs in the state of New Jersey. She has worked with several Commissioners of Education in an advisory and leadership capacity. Under Commissioner Librera, she served as a subcommittee chair of the Teaching and Learning Task Force, she was the keynote speaker at a Summit Meeting on Standards in Teacher Preparation, she worked on the development of New Jersey’s Professional Teaching Standards, and was a member of the NJ Quality Teaching and Learning Executive Committee. Under Commissioner Davy, she chaired the NJ Higher Education Task Force and the NJ Committee on Elementary Teacher Preparation and she was a member of the Steering Committee for NJ High School Redesign. She served on Transition Education Sub-Committees for Governor Corzine and Governor Christie and she has been a frequent speaker at Educational Testing Service, Rutgers Public Education Institute, and NJEA conventions and meetings. She co-chaired the NJ Department of Education Abbott School Improvement Committee for a number of years and worked with the Education Law Center on school improvement and teacher development efforts in Abbott districts.

Impact Beyond Montclair State University

At the national level, Dean Cutler has served on the Governing Board and the Executive Committee of the Governing Board of the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER) for ten years. She teaches in the NNER Summer Symposium in Seattle, providing professional development for educational leaders from across the nation. She served for three years on the Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni Council, providing leadership for alumni and advice to the Dean. At ETS, Dean Cutler has worked on the national Teacher Leadership Standards Steering Committee and she has collaborated with researchers at ETS on a number of research projects. She has worked closely with the leadership of AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) on issues surrounding education policy and the work of NCTQ (National Council on Teacher Quality). She has testified and presented to Congress and congressional staffers on teacher education and school-university partnerships. Last year, she worked with Dr. Mary Brabeck, dean at NYU to negotiate with NCTQ on the lack of transparency and fairness in their planned review of teacher education. She is a frequent presenter and speaker at AACTE Annual Meetings, NNER Annual Meetings, and other conferences and venues. She has published articles, book chapters, Op Ed and guest articles in the print media, and she has appeared on radio and TV speaking about school improvement, teacher education, and teacher development.
"Although her expertise as a scholar and her advocacy work for teacher education are certainly impressive and important, what makes Dr. Cutler so endearing as a leader is her boundless generosity. Many of my colleagues and I have benefited greatly by her ever-present willingness to share information and offer assistance to us. She has a good heart and an affirming manner."

Mark S. Kiselica  
*Dean, School of Education and Professor of Counselor Education  
The College of New Jersey*

"Ada Beth has made so many contributions to the field of education, not only in NJ, but throughout the country. Her many years of dedicated work are appreciated beyond words. She has always been the epitome of professionalism and an inspiration to me. Her retirement is well-earned, but she will be sorely missed."

Carol Sharp  
*Dean, College of Education, Rowan University*

"Dean Cutler’s strong desire for the success of her students played a huge role in the recognition that the college has received during her term as Dean. She is a staunch advocate for teacher preparation and has made significant contributions to the conversation about teacher quality in NJ and the nation."

Sharon Sherman  
*Dean, School of Education, Rider University*

"I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Dean Cutler for many years, through our partnership in the Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal and most recently co-authoring a chapter in the book, *Teacher Education Policy In The United States: Issues and Tensions in an Era of Evolving Expectations*. She is a great visionary who believes that providing the best education for students from all backgrounds comes from producing highly-effective teachers. I have the utmost respect for Ada Beth and her commitment to teacher preparation at Montclair State University, overseeing the certification of consistently talented, dedicated and well-prepared new professionals."

Frank Alvarez  
*Superintendent, Montclair Public Schools*
Under the leadership of Dean Ada Beth Cutler, the College of Education and Human Services has made tremendous advances in its academic programs. Academic programs have not only been redesigned and revised over the last ten years, but new programs have been added. Under Dean Cutler’s leadership, the curriculum has been dynamic and responsive to innovations in research, practice, and societal needs. New programs developed since 2000 include:

- PhD in Counselor Education (the first PhD at the University)
- EdD in Teacher Education and Teacher Development
- PhD in Family Studies
- Master of Public Health
- MEd in Special Education
- MS in Nutrition and Food Science
- BS in Athletic Training
- BA in Family and Child Studies
- BS in Nutrition and Food Science
- BS in Exercise Science
- Dual Certification MAT programs
- BA-MAT Dual Degree/Dual Certification programs
- Fast-Track and Off-Site Graduate Programs in Educational Leadership

Doctoral study has also flourished under the Dean’s leadership. With the introduction of three new doctoral programs in the College—including the University’s first PhD Program—the college now offers more than forty areas of study for college graduates looking to continue their education.

The Teacher Education and Teacher Development EdD program offers doctoral students a unique opportunity to engage in advanced study of teacher learning and development. As the first program of its kind in the region and one of only a few in the country, the Teacher Education and Teacher Development program helps to keep Montclair State University among the most innovative schools focusing on teacher preparation in the country.

Dr. Ana Maria Villegas, director of the program, notes Dean Cutler’s contribution to the success of the program. “From the beginning, when we started conceptualizing the Teacher Education and Teacher Development doctoral program, through the development of the curriculum, writing the proposal, and the startup and ongoing implementation, Ada Beth provided unwavering support, as well as her expertise in teacher education, and encouragement for the faculty to think in creative ways and develop a theoretically grounded, cutting-edge program.”

The Counselor Education PhD program is unlike any other program offered in the area. The objective of the program is to prepare graduates for work as academics and as professionals who work in schools, community agencies and higher education institutions. “I firmly believe that without her strong support, the PhD in Counselor Education would not have been the first PhD program at MSU,” says Dr. Larry Burlew, Chairperson of the Counseling and Educational Leadership department. “She had the vision to realize that a Counselor Education program would provide an opportunity for counselors and student affairs specialists to pursue their dream of becoming leaders, researchers, and faculty members for Counselor Education programs in a geographic area that otherwise would not allow for such dreams to come true.”

The College of Education and Human Services is also launching a new doctoral program beginning in the fall of 2013. The PhD in Family Studies considers family life within larger socio-cultural contexts and explores how issues of power, privilege and social justice interact to differentially impact family configurations.
New Initiatives

As the College has grown and developed over the past decade, new structures and initiatives have been developed to meet the organization’s needs.

NEW CENTERS

ADP Center for Teacher Preparation and Learning Technologies:
The ADP Center for Teacher Preparation and Learning Technologies mission is to improve the quality of education for education professionals by providing access to our more than 30,000 curriculum & instructional technology resources as well as the requisite support in using them.

Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services:
The Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services (CREEHS) conducts high-quality research and evaluation studies that address the most pressing issues in education and human services.

Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health:
The Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health (CAECMH) includes academic programs, promotion, prevention, and intervention services and partnerships with faculty members from throughout the University. The Center’s programs and services include: consultation services for community, educational, and health organizations; continuing education, professional development, and training programs for schools and community organizations; post-baccalaureate and post-graduate certificate programs; research and grants; and transdisciplinary clinical services for children and their families.

EXAMINING IMPORTANT ISSUES

The College has worked to be responsive to societal change and remain dedicated to its mission to build a healthier, better educated and more just society. Dean Cutler has ensured that members of the College faculty have the resources and support to examine such issues, including:

- Committee on Race and Racism
- Faculty Advisory Committee on Scholarship
- Online and Hybrid Teaching and Learning Task Force
- Doctoral Council
- Advanced Assessment Committee
- Student Advisory Councils
- Professional Development Series for Graduate Assistants and Doctoral Fellows
- Funding for Faculty Professional Development
- Funding for Student Research Presentations
- Summer and Winter Tech Camp for Faculty and Staff

ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVES

Dean Cutler has fostered an organizational climate that welcomes and encourages entrepreneurship and alternate delivery of graduate programs that offer convenience without compromising academic rigor. Such programs include:

- P-3 Modified Alternate Route Program, which provides master’s, certification and professional development programs at off-campus sites throughout the state.
- Fast-Track MA in Educational Leadership, an accelerated and hybrid-delivery program that allows working teachers to complete a master’s degree in 14 months while working full-time.
- Off-Site Educational Leadership programs, which bring the MA in Educational Leadership and Principal/Supervisor certifications to teachers in their districts in four counties.
- Professional development conferences and programs for education and human services professionals offered year-round in day and evening formats.