

EDUCATION ON Boyer 4th

The campus newsletter of the Messiah University Education Department

Issue 33 | October 2024



DR. MFUM-
MENSAH
TRAVELS TO
SOUTH AFRICA

A TRIBUTE TO
THE LATE
ETHAN VAN
BOCHOVEN

DR. KELLER
PRESENTS AT
PAC-TE
CONFERENCE

In Every Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT, TECHNOLOGY CORNER, PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD, PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT, ALUMNI ADVICE, DEVOTIONAL, UPCOMING EVENTS



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. TINA KELLER

October 2024

Out of all the seasons, fall reminds me of how life is filled with change. This fall, which coincidentally has had the most amazing technicolor leaves of any fall in my recent memory, has also been filled with many changes in our department.

We have said goodbye to Carol Wickey, our amazing support in the TEP program. She worked in the TEP office when I was an undergraduate student. Hundreds of current teachers were touched by her. We are thrilled that she can retire and enjoy her family. We are all better for knowing her. The education department's administrative assistant, Beverly Pitcher-Johnson will now support students in this capacity. While we are sad that Bev will not work directly with us, we are thrilled that she is just down the hall. I encourage students to stop by and welcome Bev to her new role.

SONG FOR AUTUMN MARY OLIVER

Don't you imagine the leaves dream now
how comfortable it will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of the air and the endless
freshets of wind? And don't you think
the trees, especially those with
mossy hollows, are beginning to look for

the birds that will come — six, a dozen — to sleep
inside their bodies? And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond
stiffens and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its long blue shadows. The wind wags
its many tails. And in the evening
the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.

Mary Oliver's poem, *Song for Autumn*, reflects the beauty and wisdom in embracing the season's transitions. Her imagery of the leaves gently falling to rest on the earth, trading their hold on the sky for a place below, resonates with themes of surrender, renewal, and trust in a divine cycle of life and growth. Change is a part of life; a part of the journey. This reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:1, which says:

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

We can trust that God has a plan for us and a purpose for our lives in the midst of change. We can be reminded that just as the green of summer gives way to the blaze orange of fall and gleaming white of snow our lives will also experience change. However, all along the way we know that we are not alone. We have a God who desires to walk with those who are hurting and we have the comfort of each other.

My prayer is that this year when you see the maple leaves fall you are reminded of how God will remain faithful to you during every season of your life.

All the Best,
Dr. Keller

On the Cover:

EAMU club members explore the Harrisburg Book Festival.

DEVOTIONAL

A MONTHLY DEVOTION WRITTEN BY MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION STUDENTS.

God's Definition of Beauty

“My nails are chipped, my hair looks crazy, I need to start working out, ugh my face is breaking out?!” Have you ever looked in the mirror and had these thoughts going through your head? The little voice in your head likes to point out all of these worldly imperfections.

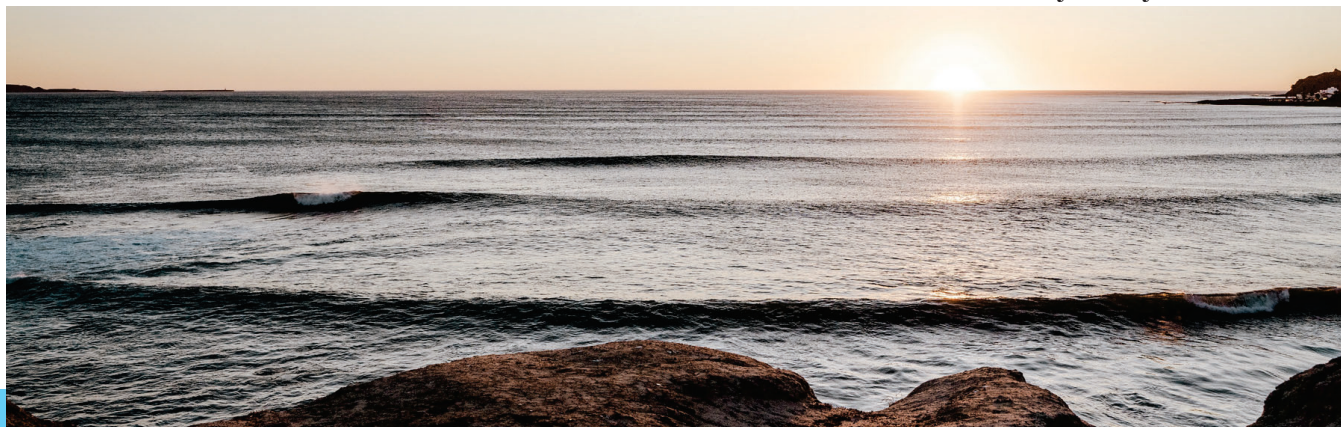
These worldly “standards” are unrealistic, they make you think you always need more or less of something to meet the standard. The world’s standards set you up for failure, comparison sets you up for failure, and the world’s standards set you up to make you feel less than.

God created you, and you are his masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10).

Who God created you to be is more than enough. There are many Bible verses in the Bible that tell us we are beautifully created by God in his image. Look at your hair, the features of your face, your eyes, your skin, that is who God created you to be, and He created you perfectly, as the Bible tells us “there is no flaw in you.” You are the kind words, a beautiful smile and beautiful actions, and most importantly there is only one you and you are the best version of yourself.

If you are trying to find your beauty and purpose in the world, you won’t ever feel good enough. Find your beauty in God, He is all you need.

Written by: Haylee Miller



HEARD IN THE CLASSROOM

*What are we talking
about this month?*

ALEXIA KAPLIN

Alexia is a sophomore Early Childhood Education Major with a Disciplinary Focus on ELA. This semester Alexia is taking Intro to English with Professor Smith for her ELA concentration, and so far she notes, “we take two weeks to read a book and discuss that particular book each class. We started off the year by reading a book called “Traveling Mercies” by Anne Lamott which is now one of my favorite books! I really appreciate the way Professor Smith runs discussion in his classroom. He breaks us up into small groups so that each person has the chance to share their thoughts. I believe this has brought a lot of unity to our class and we overall enjoy discussion with each other.”



BERN SANDOVAL

Bern is a senior Art Education Major and this semester she is taking Sociocultural Perspectives on Education with Dr. Mfum-Mensah. Bern says, “it’s actually one of my favorite education courses I’ve taken. This course discusses hard topics such as social class, race, sexuality, etc. which are heavily influenced by the outside world. I personally love learning further about these topics. In the city I grew up in, I have witnessed everything firsthand, whether it’s the differences in identities, social class, etc. I also find it interesting to hear the different perspectives each of my peers have when it comes to these topics. It truly is a great class and wish more people knew about it.”



Special Education

at Messiah University

Serving the Least of These Matthew 25:40

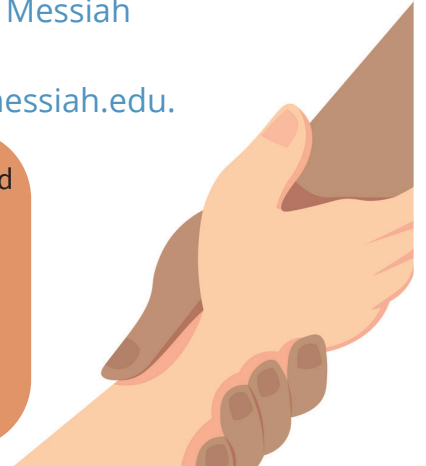
There are **three** ways to pursue Special Education at Messiah University!

For more information see the corresponding page on messiah.edu.

To earn teaching certification in both special education and early childhood education, choose the major in **Education Dual Certification in PreK-4th and Special Education PreK-12th**
Field placements across grade ranges, regular, and special education
Student teaching in Special Education, Special Education Internship
Good option for flexible choices in teaching career and preparing to serve children with disabilities in regular or special education settings



To earn teaching certification in only special education choose the major in **Special Education N-12 with Teaching Certification PreK-12th**
Field placements across grade ranges, regular, and special education
Student teach in Special Education, Special Education Internship
Good option for teaching specializing in high school special education, more severe disabilities, or for careers in agencies or hospital early intervention, etc.



If interested in serving individuals with disabilities without teaching certification in special education you might enjoy the **Minor in Special Education**
Develop expertise from 18-21 credits of study
No Field placement requirements
Good option for preparing to teach regular education with expertise in serving children with disabilities, or for disability-related work through agencies or government



Messiah University also offers **Speech and Language Pathology** and **Disability and Family Wellness** minors!

Need help deciding?

No problem! See Dr. Melinda Burchard our Coordinator of Special Education (or contact at mburchard@messiah.edu), your academic advisor, or anyone in the Career and Professional Development Center.

Already know what majors and/or minors you would like?

Declare via form at messiah.edu/info/23421/forms

RECENTLY, MESSIAH UNIVERSITY REACHED OUT TO ALL OF OUR FIELD EXPERIENCE-SENDING DISTRICTS TO ASK THEM: "WHAT MAKES YOU CONTINUE TO SELECT MESSIAH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OVER AND OVER AGAIN?" BASED ON THEIR RESPONSES, THE DEPARTMENT CREATED AND RELEASED THESE PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITION STATEMENTS.

WE ARE...

PASSIONATE &
INNOVATIVE
EDUCATORS

VIGILANT &
LOYAL
CAREGIVERS

THOUGHTFUL
& PRODUCTIVE
COMMUNICATORS

RESPECTFUL
& WILLING
COLLABORATORS

CAPABLE &
RESOURCEFUL
INITIATORS

WELCOMING &
INTENTIONAL
BRIDGE
BUILDERS

WE ARE MESSIAH TEACHERS

EDUCATION PROFESSOR DR. SARAH FISCHER SAYS, "THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM FACULTY WORKED TO CRAFT THE DISPOSITIONS IN HOPES THAT THEY WOULD CAPTURE AND GIVE LANGUAGE TO THE ATTRIBUTES OF OUR PROGRAM GRADUATES. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR DISCUSSIONS AND PROGRAMMING AROUND THE STATEMENTS IN THE FUTURE!"

Dr. Mfum-Mensah Travels to South Africa Over Fall Break



While in South Africa Dr. Mfum-Mensah presented with research colleagues at University of South Africa, in Pretoria South Africa (pictured above). He Also attended an Educational Psychology presentation at Cape Peninsular University of Technology in Cape Town (pictured below).

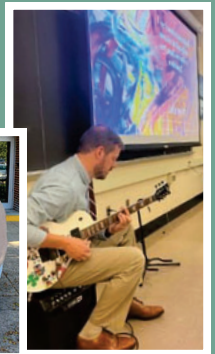
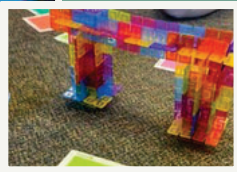


EAMU



Shippensburg Prep & Success Conference

October 5th, 2024



DR. BONNIE JENKINS

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Boyer 402

Email: bjenkins@messiah.edu

WHY DID I BECOME A PROFESSOR?

During my career, I had the opportunity to mentor many student teachers and to work in a leadership position within my former district. I enjoyed helping teachers develop their craft and wanted a position that would allow me to focus on that.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE AND WHY

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.” Colossians 3:23- 24
These verses remind me that my work is ultimately for the Lord and has eternal value. Therefore, I should continually be striving for excellence so I can bring glory to His name.

FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT

One of the best things we do as educators is train our students to take ownership of their learning. As a classroom teacher, I often talked to my students about “growing their brains.” We would talk about how to handle struggle and what strategies the students could use to help themselves learn. When things got tough, we would remind ourselves that sometimes “growing our brains” can be hard. When learning accomplishments happened, we would celebrate how big our brains had gotten. At the end of one school year, a child gave me a thank-you card with a picture he created of a small brain labelled “the beginning of the year” next to a large smiling brain labelled “the end of the year.” He had grown so much, and I was thrilled to see that he recognized what he had accomplished!

HIDDEN TALENTS AND HOBBIES

In my free time, I enjoy working out, grabbing coffee with friends, watching football, and spending time with my family.



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ed.D - Curriculum and Instruction, Elementary Education

Graduate Certificate - Principal PreK-12

Graduate Certificate - Mind, Brain, and Teaching

M.Ed. - Teaching and Curriculum

B.A. -Elementary Education

CLASSES I TEACH

EDUC 209: Principles & Structures of Mathematics

EDUC 303: Math: Climate, Curriculum, and Instruction I

EDUC 304: Math: Climate, Curriculum, and Instruction II

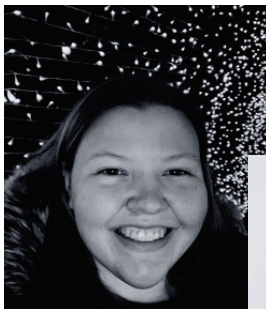
RESEARCH INTERESTS

Math anxiety
Mind, brain, and teaching

SERVICE

Children's Ministry and Women's Connection at LCBC West Shore

TESOL Minor Alumni Profiles



PHOEBE COOK

GRADUATION YEAR: 2018

CURRENT POSITION:

KINDERGARTEN ESL TEACHER

ABOUT

I have been working as an ESL teacher since graduation. Since graduation I have worked across grade levels Kinder-5th. I am currently a Kindergarten ESL teacher at a PreK-2 school. I work with bilingual classrooms as well as general education classrooms. I love watching how students' language develops. Watching a student who couldn't say anything in English be able to speak in full sentences by the end of the year is amazing!

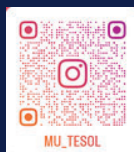
WHY DID YOU ADD A TESOL MINOR?

- ✓ I love watching how a student's language develops
- ✓ Seeing improvement in language skills between the beginning and the end of the year is amazing

HOW DO YOU USE YOUR TESOL MINOR?

- ✓ I have worked as an ESL teacher since graduation
- ✓ I have worked across grade levels Kindergarten- 5th grade
- ✓ I work in both bilingual and general education classrooms

[To Learn More About the TESOL Minor](#)



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Talk with Your
Advisor
Today!

HONORS PROJECT

Due by
NOVEMBER 1
(to start the following spring)
~
APRIL 1
(to start the following fall)

**INTERESTED
SOPHOMORES &
JUNIORS SUBMIT
AN ONLINE
APPLICATION**

Students complete the online form to initiate interest in completing an education department honors project.

**EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT
REVIEWS
APPLICANTS**

After reviewing all applications, top projects will be selected and faculty advisors will be assigned.

NOVEMBER 1-15
(to start the following spring)
~
APRIL 1-15
(to start the following fall)

To learn more, visit our webpage
[Department Honors projects |
Messiah, a private Christian
University in PA](#)



PROFESSOR TEMPLE

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Boyer 420

Email: jtemple@messiah.edu

WHY DID I BECOME A PROFESSOR?

Even though I retired with 35 years in public education, I wanted to return to the classroom with the intention to provide instruction and supervision to future teachers.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE AND WHY

Matthew 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law of the Prophets." This verse guides me in my daily decisions and interactions with others - to treat others as you would want to be treated.

FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT

There have been many over the years; however, recently it has been gratifying to hear from graduates who are employed.

HOW DID I BECOME INTERESTED IN MY FIELD?

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a teacher. With numerous opportunities to validate that decision along the way, I was and continue to be blessed to teach and lead in the field of education.

HIDDEN TALENTS AND HOBBIES

Handmade chicken pot pie
Reading and Traveling

FAVORITE VACATION MEMORY

The beauty of Kawaii Island

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility
M. Ed. Educational Administration
M. Ed. Education
B.S. Elementary Education / Special Education

CLASSES I TEACH

EDSP 207: Introduction to Special Education
TEP 312: Field Experience
TEP 432/434: Student Teaching
EDME 537: Transition and Secondary Education
EDME 534: Teaching Practicum

SERVICE

Coaching individuals with disabilities

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Teacher Supervision
Instructional Strategies
Curriculum Design



A Tribute to Ethan Van Bochoven



In 2018, Messiah student Ethan Van Bochoven was involved in a fatal car crash on Interstate 83, which shook the University, especially the Music Department. Flash forward to the summer of 2021, and Paris Emerie, a Chemistry Education and Music Double Major, expressed interest in purchasing Ethan's violin. She spoke with her violin instructor Peter Sirotin, who was Ethan's instructor as well, and he reached out to Ethan's parents about her interest in purchasing his concert violin. Long story short, they lovingly agreed so Ethan's violin would be cherished and played again. Ever since receiving his violin, Paris knew she wanted to honor Ethan in some way, and since he passed just a couple of weeks before his senior recital, it seemed appropriate to honor him at hers. With permission from his parents, Paris recently performed "Eleanor Rigby", a piece that he himself was going to perform. Paris says: "I carry on Ethan's legacy, while I build my own, and every time I play, I keep his memory alive."



[Click here to learn more about Ethan!](#)



High School Students EDUCATORS FOR TOMORROW



Program

01



Dreaming of Teaching?

Are you a high school student thinking of becoming a teacher? This program is for you!

Learn More

Educators for Tomorrow students participate in a one-year cohort program, with a fall start date, which includes these three different program components: Dual enrollment classes, events at Messiah, and experiences in your home district.

02



Educators for Tomorrow Program

messiah.edu/

03



Join Us!

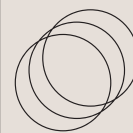
In addition to gaining a deeper understanding and exposure to teaching as a potential career, students who complete the Educators for Tomorrow program receive a certificate of completion from Messiah University and earn six college credits if they successfully complete the program's dual enrollment coursework.



A Teacher Educator's Search for Happiness: Examining Happiness and Wellbeing in the Preparation of Future Teachers

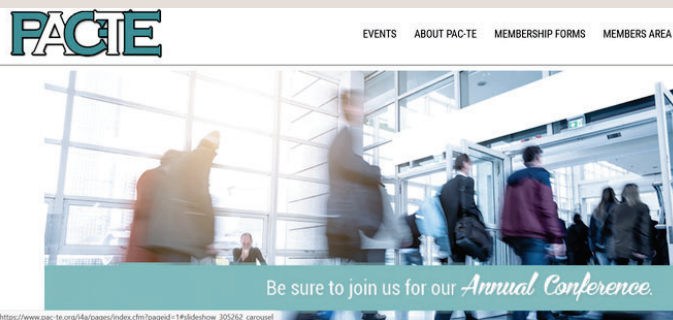
Dr. Keller's presentation told the story of her desire to make sense of increasing challenges in the mental health of teachers, preservice teachers and teacher educators. This session highlighted her current auto-ethnography in progress and encouraged participants to consider their own experience with happiness and well-being in relationship to your role in preparing teachers.

October 23 - 25



PAC-TE Conference

The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE) is a nonprofit professional association for all those in Pennsylvania who are engaged in the preparation and development of professional educators.

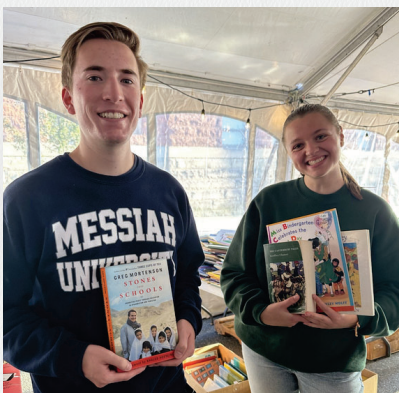
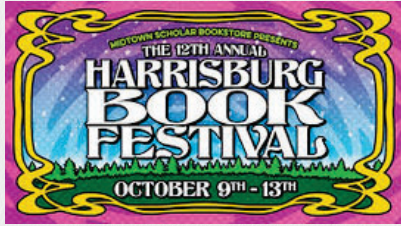


[More Information](#)

To Read More on Dr. Keller's work;

[Preparing Happy Teachers: A Review of the Literature](#)

EAMU TAKES ON THE HARRISBURG BOOK FESTIVAL

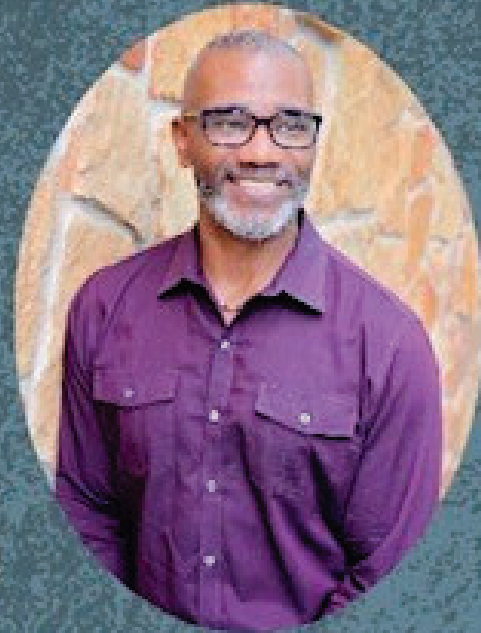


ON OCTOBER 11TH AND 12TH, EAMU HEADED INTO THE CITY OF HARRISBURG FOR A TRIP OF FUN AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. WE VISITED THE HARRISBURG BOOK FESTIVAL TO STOCK UP ON OUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY ALONG WITH THE MIDTOWN SCHOLAR BOOKSTORE AND BROAD STREET MARKET. WE WERE HONORED TO MEET WITH CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR BRYAN COLLIER, WHO VISITED THE MIDTOWN SCHOLAR FOR A BOOK READING AND SIGNING EVENT. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE EAMU EVENTS THIS YEAR!

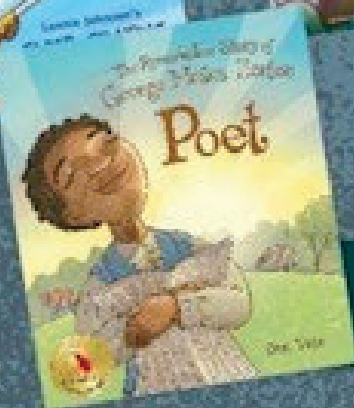
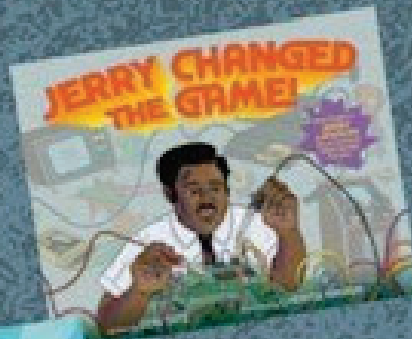
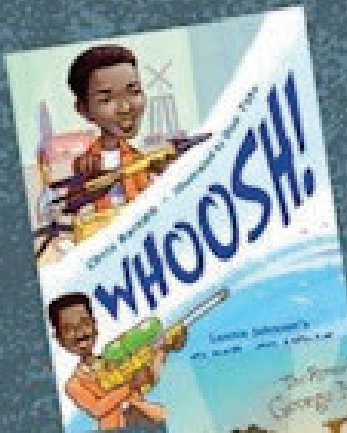
AUTHOR VISIT DON TATE

AWARD-WINNING
AUTHOR AND
ILLUSTRATOR

6:30 PM
MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 11



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FAMILIES WELCOME.



Author and
Illustrator
Don Tate will
tell stories
while sharing
original
artwork from
his books.

With a special reading from Poet

Q & A, book signing, and
books available for purchase

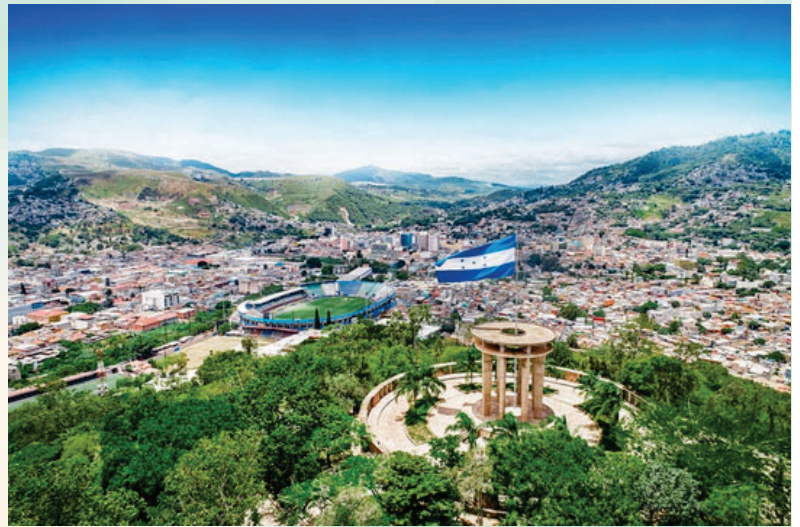
MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY

MURRAY LIBRARY

Messiah.edu/Library

1 University Avenue, Mechanicsburg

Mireliz Bermudez



Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Fall 2024 Student Teaching Abroad

Hola, I am Mireliz Bermudez, a senior with Dual Certification in Early Childhood and Special Education. For the second half of the semester, I will be student teaching in Honduras at Academia Los Pinares. Since I am a dual cert, I will be teaching in a learning support capacity. Due to the school's structure, I will be living on campus with other teachers in the elementary school. I am so excited to immerse myself in both country's and school's culture. As I get ready for this trip, I would greatly appreciate prayers of safety and guidance.

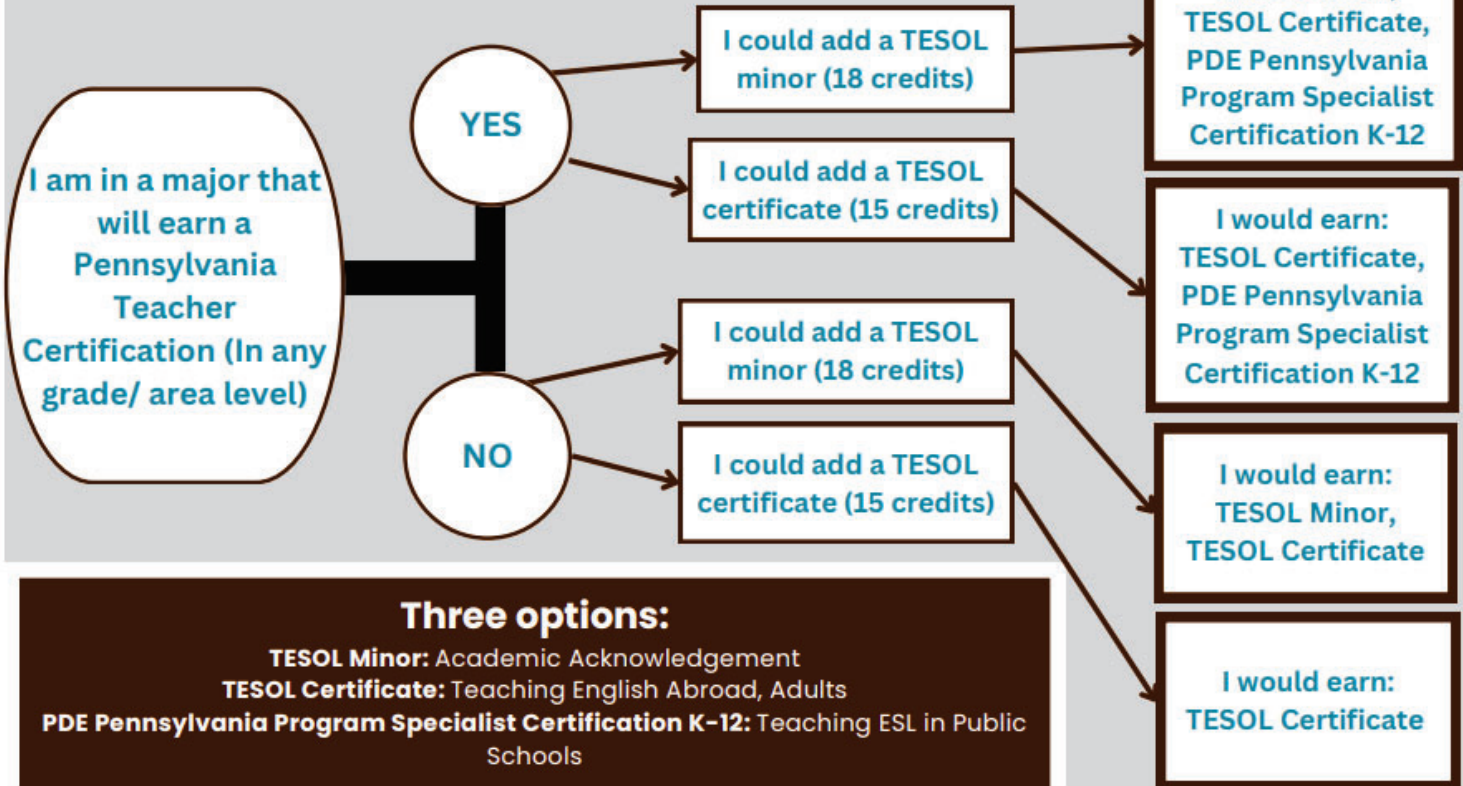


Academia Los Pinares



TESOL DECISIONS

Both the TESOL Minor and TESOL Certificate need to be declared



TESOL Minor (18 Credits)

Education Majors (PreK-4, Dual, Middle Level, Secondary)	All Other Majors
TESOL/ESL minor with Pennsylvania ESL Program Specialist Certification K-12	TESOL/ESL minor
Choice of HDFS 383 Topics in Multicultural Families (3) HDFS 386 Family Ethnicity and Human Services (3) SOAN 356 Social Inequality (3)	EDUC 346 Sociocultural Perspectives on Education (3) HDFS 383 Topics in Multicultural Families (3) HDFS 386 Family Ethnicity and Human Services (3) SOAN 356 Social Inequality (3)
EDUC 208 Teaching English Language Learners in K-12 Schools (3) (TEP requirement)	Choice of EDUC 208 Teaching English Language Learners in K-12 Schools (3) or ENGL 230 Linguistics (3)
EDUC 330/331 Instructional Design (3) (TEP requirement)	EDUC 331 Instructional Design (Prerequisite Waived)
EDUC 309 English Language Learning in TESOL/ESL classrooms (3)	EDUC 309 English Language Learning in TESOL/ESL classrooms (3)
EDUC 311 TESOL/ESL Methods and Assessment (3)	EDUC 311 TESOL/ESL Methods and Assessment (3)
EDUC 401 Seminar in TESOL/ESL (2)	EDUC 401 Seminar in TESOL/ESL (2)
EDUC 402 TESOL/ESL Internship (1)	EDUC 402 TESOL/ESL Internship (1)

TESOL Certificate (15 Credits)

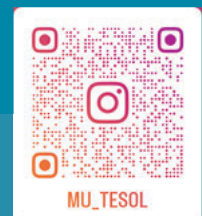
All Majors
Choice of EDUC 208 Teaching English Language Learners in K-12 Schools (3) or ENGL 230 Linguistics (3)
EDUC 330 or 331 Instructional Design (Prerequisite Waived)
EDUC 309 English Language Learning in TESOL/ESL classrooms (3)
EDUC 311 TESOL/ESL Methods and Assessment (3)
EDUC 401 Seminar in TESOL/ESL (2)
EDUC 402 TESOL/ESL Internship (1)

REACH OUT TO DR. KELLER TO LEARN MORE!
TKELLER@MESSIAH.EDU

[ADVISING GUIDE](#)

[OVERVIEW PRESENTATION](#)

[MESSIAH UNIVERSITY](#)
[TESOL SOCIALS](#)





Happy Retirement Mrs. Wickey!

“I know that when students think of the Teacher Education Program here at Messiah—they can’t help but think of Mrs. Wickey! She has walked alongside so many students in this program with care and attention--her trusty reminders and her vast array of knowledge has helped countless students. She contributed in so many ways to keeping TEP running efficiently and effectively. Although we will miss her greatly, we celebrate with her as she enters retirement.” - Dr. Simmons, TEP Director



DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENTS RECEIVE A
90%
 discount
 COMPARED TO REGULAR PART-TIME TUITION RATE

Do you want to be a teacher?

Then you need to take educational psychology!

Messiah University is offering a dual enrollment educational psychology course next year in both the fall and spring semesters. If you want to be a teacher, you should take it.

If you want to be a teacher, one of the required courses you will need to take is Educational Psychology. A standard introductory or general psychology course may not count toward degree or licensure requirements. Educational Psychology is a required course at the following colleges and universities: **Messiah University**, Penn State, Grove City, IUPA, Wilkes, Pitt, Temple, Kutztown, Gettysburg, Susquehanna, University of Scranton, Bucknell, LVC, Dickinson, Villanova, Geneva, Eastern, Lafayette, Swarthmore, Drexel and many more. Instruction will be delivered online, providing an opportunity for you to learn alongside Messiah undergraduate students. **Get a head start today on your journey toward becoming a teacher!**

- Available during fall and spring semesters
- Earn credits towards your teaching degree
- Learn alongside on-campus students
- Asynchronous delivery with on-campus learning opportunities

Questions?

Contact: Matt Reitnour

Associate Director of Admissions/Coordinator of Dual Enrollment

Email: mreitnour@messiah.edu | Call: 717-691-6000



Benefits of being dual enrolled at Messiah University

- Create a more flexible schedule as a college student
- Strengthen your potential to graduate from college in less than 4 years
- Experience college life by taking classes taught by Messiah University professors
- Take college courses that may satisfy both high school and college credit requirements

22-1360



Last month, students in Dr. Fischer's literacy methods courses enjoyed learning about music and literacy integration by participating in a music class demonstration by program alum, Nicolena Bryden.



Celebrating Bev Pitcher-Johnson



Thank you Bev for your work in our department. Your attention to detail and dedication to our student workers shows us just the kind of person that you are. We are so excited for your new journey in TEP and all of the amazing things you will accomplish!



ALUMNI ADVICE

LESSONS FROM MESSIAH ALUMNI



ALUMNI PROFILE

Kelsey Sharpe

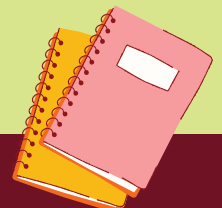
CLASS OF 2023

1st Grade Teacher

Upper Allen Elementary School
Mechanicsburg, PA

ADVICE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

There is a lot of negative attention surrounding education these days. I am here to tell you that there is also SO much joy in education as well. As teachers, we have the unique opportunity to pour knowledge and love into our students. We get to watch them discover the world around them and help them see the good within themselves. Yes, you will have hard days (we all do), AND you will quickly find that this is one of the most fulfilling, rewarding, joy-filled careers there is!



Upcoming Events



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOVEMBER

Education Department Honors Project Applications Due - **November 1**

Open House - **November 9th**

EAMU Conversation Cafe Meeting - **November 10th** (time TBD)

Penn TESOL East Conference - **November 16th**

Academic Spotlight Day - **November 22nd**

Thanksgiving Break - **November 27 - December 1**



Would you like to contribute to our newsletter? Do you have an idea for an article? We would love to hear from current students or Messiah Alumni!

Email ideas to tkeller@messiah.edu



FOLLOW US



Scan the Code to Read Past Issues of the Newsletter:

