



Dear Undergraduate Students:

On behalf of the Multicultural Early Childhood and Elementary Education faculty and staff, I welcome you to the Department of Multicultural Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Medgar Evers College. We are looking forward to a strong, meaningful and rewarding association with you during your time as a Childhood Education major. As you well know, childhood is a foundational education and a diverse field, and the Medgar Evers College Multicultural Early Childhood and Elementary Education Department provides its students with a wide variety of opportunities. At the beginning of your academic career (and even as an upper-class Clinical Practice student), these resources, practices, expectation and opportunities can seem overwhelming.

There are a few things I encourage you to do, no matter where you are in the process of being a Childhood Education major. First, get involved with establishing strong study habits, honing your teaching practices and skills, and research, and involving in the extracurricular activities of the department. During the academic year, our department and the college has different workshops that will help you prepare for certification/licensure exams, in applying to graduate school and other professional matters. You can also participate in our education club. If you need any information on the Childhood Program get in touch with Dr. Saran at [rsaran@mec.cuny.edu](mailto:rsaran@mec.cuny.edu).

I also encourage you to speak with one of the undergraduate advisors if you have any questions about our program, courses and/or other issues, and get in touch with Dr. Alicia Collins at [acollins@mec.cuny.edu](mailto:acollins@mec.cuny.edu). The advising offices SEEK and ASAP are there to help you.

I want to explain to you that effective Childhood education — education that empowers and elevates students of all backgrounds and abilities—depends on student-centered methods, individualized approaches, cultural responsiveness, and specialized pedagogies based in research, theory, and practice. Medgar Evers College Childhood Education programs prepares you to work with learners of all types, and provides you the opportunity to advance you career through specialization in elementary school settings.

This program is committed to the preparation of urban elementary school teachers who can effectively handle the wide range of diverse learning needs found among the City's students. Teacher candidates will take a specified sequence of education courses in addition to fulfilling the CUNY Common Core Requirement and the requirements of their liberal arts or sciences major. These programs include fieldwork in New York City Public schools.

Teachers certified in Childhood Education Grades 1-6 in New York State become eligible to enroll in a master's degree program in a number of these fields, including Literacy, Math, STEM, Special Education, bilingual and TESOL. Regardless of the specialization, graduates become leaders in all types of educational settings, as teachers, mentors, faculty development facilitators, instructional designers, college instructors, principals, and even founders of their own schools and programs.

*Rupam Saran*

Dr. Rupam Saran