

## MSUNER VOCABULARY

- **Agenda for Education in a Democracy:** The Office of the Agenda for Education in a Democracy, a unit in the Center of Pedagogy, is responsible for maintaining the focus and vitality of the shared vision that bonds the faculty in education, the arts and sciences, and the public schools as they undertake their common work. The overarching purpose of the endeavor is to strengthen the voice of democracy in the ongoing discussion of the purpose and future of public education in the United States. The 4 principles of the Agenda are are: Stewardship of Best Practice; Access to Knowledge for all students; a Nurturing Pedagogy; and Democratic Practice.
- **Clinical Faculty:** Member district school faculty and administrators who apply to the University for appointment as Clinical Faculty. These are teachers/administrators who see themselves as learners as well as educators, who want to share their expertise and nurture pre-service teachers, and who see critical thinking as central to their work with students. Once appointed, these people are offered many professional development activities, including curriculum development opportunities, research options, and campus privileges.
- **Cooperating Teacher:** The classroom teacher who serves as a mentor, model, and peer for the students enrolled in field embedded courses, including field experience and student teaching. Whenever possible, a student is assigned to the same teacher for both fieldwork semesters.
- **CoP:** The Center of Pedagogy is the office that coordinates all aspects of the preparation of teachers at MSU and is the first agency in the country to focus its resources on the direction and coordination of the various aspects of the renewal of teacher education both in the university and in the public schools. Although many may think of the Center as a place located on campus run by university faculty and staff, it is in fact more all-encompassing. The Center is comprised of the three groups that have the most direct impact on teacher education: the College of Education and Human Services, all of the other University colleges, and our partner school districts and communities.
- **MSUNER Executive Committee:** The policy-making body of the Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER) that consists of the superintendent and/or designee(s) from each partner school district, representatives from the University, and the MSUNER Director.

- **Education Mentor:** An on-site education mentor from MSU who observes and assesses a student teacher's teaching from a formative perspective. The improvement of instructional skills is the primary focus of the observation process. The mentor is responsible for a minimum of three observations at sufficiently spaced and coordinated time intervals to allow for the student teacher's growth.
- **Teacher Intern:** A synonym for *student teacher* that should more accurately reflect the role of candidates in the classrooms where they complete their clinical experiences in the schools.
- **MSUNER:** The Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal is an equal partnership between and among MSU and member public school districts that focuses on the simultaneous renewal of schools and teacher preparation. The member school districts understand and agree with the MSU philosophy of teacher education and employ that philosophy when working with MSU students engaged in fieldwork. In addition, the MSUNER offers professional development, curricular development, and research opportunities for the teachers in the member districts.
- **NNER:** Founded in 1986 by education researchers John Goodlad, Roger Soder, and Kenneth Sirotnik, the National Network for Educational Renewal is a "national laboratory" for implementing and testing the ideas that are central to the Agenda for Education in a Democracy. The NNER consists of school-university partnership settings – including Montclair State – that are focused on the simultaneous renewal of schools and the education of educators. At Montclair State University, this partnership is overseen by the Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER).
- **MSUNER Operations Committee:** A committee that implements the policy created by the Executive Committee, plans MSUNER events, and gives input on the everyday activities of the MSUNER. The committee consists of the District Coordinators, University representatives, and the MSUNER Director.
- **Portrait of a Teacher:** A recently revised aspirational document that operationalizes Montclair State University's vision of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of effective educators. This vision statement is used for the admission and evaluation of teacher education students and it forms the philosophical basis for the teacher education program at MSU.
- **Simultaneous Renewal:** The opportunity for teachers/administrators in MSUNER school districts and MSU and MSU students to learn from and inform each other's work with the emphasis on learning as a life-long process.