Purpose: The goal of this project is to improve and restructure the preservice teacher preparation programs in special education at the University of Albany. The overall goal is to ensure that all program graduates meet the high-quality teacher requirements in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as well as the NY teacher certification requirements.

Method: Activities of this project include: (a) planning and restructuring activities, including revisions of course syllabi and programs; (b) applying evidence-based practices, universal design for learning, collaboration, learning and assistive technology, use of student data to improve teaching and student learning, and support for families of student with high incidence disabilities into the syllabi; (c) restructuring clinical training opportunities with field-based experiences in high-needs schools, high-poverty schools, low-performing and persistently low-achieving schools; and (d) implementing the revised programs, mentoring for students, and evaluation work.

Products: