



**For Immediate Release**  
**January 9, 2017**

Contact: Tanika Davis  
410-962-5707  
[tanika@thehatchergroup.com](mailto:tanika@thehatchergroup.com)

## **NEW CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION LAUNCHED AT CANISIUS COLLEGE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL URBAN ALLIANCE**

*Center will work to improve teaching and learning in urban school systems in  
Buffalo and across Western New York*

**BUFFALO, NY** - Canisius College and the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA) are partnering to create a Center for Urban Education. Housed in the college's School of Education & Human Services, the Center for Urban Education will enhance the quality of teaching and learning in urban schools across Western New York.

Using NUA's proven approach to educating diverse populations, the Center will produce significant and sustainable improvements in teacher education by emphasizing content knowledge, research-based pedagogy, teacher recruitment and retention, professional development, mentorship and networking opportunities for new and current teaching professionals.

The NUA's mission is to substantiate an irrefutable belief in the capacity of all public school children to achieve the high intellectual performances demanded in higher education and the workplace.

"We bring gifted education and neuroscience strategies into schools for all students, with the goal of eliminating the gap between a child's potential and how that child is actually performing," said Eric J. Cooper, president and founder of NUA. "The Center will enrich the experiences of teachers, building on what they already know, so that students who are not succeeding as well as they could can be better served."

Canisius College President John Hurley said the college is excited to launch a center committed to inspiring urban students to reach the highest levels of academic performance.

"The expertise and resources of the partnership will serve to enhance the overall quality of our teacher education program and provide potential teachers for Buffalo's and other area schools," Hurley said. "And an invigorated recruitment and retention

component of this project will enhance the number and diversity of the candidate pool - and promote the retention and success of graduates in urban teaching positions."

"The partnership between NUA and Canisius College in this effort is a natural one," said Jeffrey R. Lindauer, PhD, dean of the School of Education & Human Services. "Canisius has a long history of preparing educators. More recently, the School of Education has invested more time and resources in preparing educators to work with students in urban settings. And our campus' location - in central Buffalo - makes us an ideal place to house such an innovative center."

The Center for Urban Education will:

- Enhance the skills of Canisius School of Education and Human Services faculty with an emphasis on content knowledge and research-based pedagogy
- Establish a professional learning zone in urban schools, organized around NUA's [10-point strategy](#) and professional development model
- Implement specific strategies to enhance new teacher recruitment, effectiveness and retention
- Provide ongoing support and mentoring for urban teachers, with ongoing content specific, job-embedded professional development
- Provide opportunities for teachers to network with other novice urban teachers; and
- Offer a data driven formative process that will allow quick response to problems that appear through the examination of disaggregated student performance data.

"We're pleased to be partnering with Buffalo's schools and applying NUA's successful approach to what we already do here at Canisius," Hurley said. "This falls squarely within our Jesuit mission. Together, we believe we can help close the achievement gap in urban schools, and make teaching and learning more meaningful and engaging for all."

NUA has provided professional development, advocacy and organizational guidance that transform urban and suburban schools. NUA's approach is guided by the [Pedagogy of Confidence](#), an approach to educating all students based on the fearless expectation and support for the high intellectual performance of all students, especially those who are dependent on the school and community for the skills and support needed to attain high achievement. NUA works to identify student strengths in learning rather than focus on remediation of weaknesses.

Based in Syosset, NY, and founded in 1989 at Columbia's Teachers College with The College Board, the [National Urban Alliance for Effective Education](#) provides student-focused professional development, advocacy and organizational guidance to expand and accelerate student achievement. NUA works with teachers, school administrators and communities to identify strengths to leverage the needs and break down barriers to achievement and transform schools.

The School of Education and Human Services at Canisius College houses four departments (Counseling and Human Services, Graduate Education and Leadership, Kinesiology, and Teacher Education) and the Office of Professional Studies, 12 undergraduate majors, 19 graduate programs, and multiple certifications, extensions, and advanced certificates of study. Many of the graduate programs are offered fully online. In addition, the school houses the [Institute for](#)

[Autism Research](#) and the [JUSTICE project](#).

[Canisius College](#) is one of 28 Jesuit, Catholic universities in the nation and the premier private university in Western New York.

# # #

*Based in Syosset, N.Y., and founded in 1989 at Columbia's Teachers College with The College Board, the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education provides student-focused professional development, advocacy and organizational guidance to expand and accelerate student achievement. NUA works with teachers, school administrators and communities to identify strengths to leverage the needs and break down barriers to achievement and transform schools.*

---