



## ***Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program***

### **Program Overview**

Begun in 1990, the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program at Towson University emphasizes the integration of a solid foundation of subject matter with the most current knowledge on teaching and learning. The program maintains national (NCATE) and state (MSDE) accreditation.

Successful completion of program requirements results in eligibility for initial state teaching certification as well as a master's degree. Graduates are successful teachers and school leaders in public schools throughout the state of Maryland and beyond. Both career changers and recent graduates find success in our program.

Becoming a teacher involves more than acquiring a knowledge base of specific teaching skills and competencies. To educate a teacher is to influence the premises upon which a teacher bases reflection and reasoning about teaching in specific situations. The teacher must be able to engage in inquiry and to identify the problems and issues in the classroom.

The MAT program is carefully structured to provide course work required for licensure and a supportive induction to the complex world of teaching. Field experiences are planned to provide theory to practice connections throughout MAT course work. Many MAT faculty are experienced practitioners whose classroom expertise makes theory relevant and applicable. Professional Development School partnerships with local public schools provide rich opportunities for hands-on learning in real classrooms under the guidance of experienced teachers.

### **Vision Statement**

***The vision for the Master of Arts in Teaching Program at Towson University is to prepare outstanding, classroom-ready, teacher candidates who assist all learners to meet with success in the rapidly changing, diverse, and highly technical world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.***

### **MAT Mission Statement**

The mission for the Master of Arts in Teaching Program at Towson University is to prepare outstanding teachers through a graduate level preparation program that ensures active learning occurs in diverse and inclusive educational environments by:

- building upon its unique heritage of excellence in teacher preparation through professional development school partnerships which support mentor and intern professional growth;
- modeling, reflecting upon, and refining best practices -- professional and pedagogical knowledge and skills -- to help develop a repertoire of instructional and assessment strategies;
- emphasizing clinical experiences at each stage of preparation;
- developing opportunities for candidates to make a positive impact in schools, and
- collaborating with schools to meet the needs of diverse learners in a changing world.