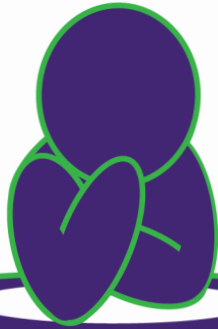


SUNY POTSDAM

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



SEMINAR SERIES

DISCIPLINED INQUIRY IN EDUCATION

Wednesday, February 8th, 2017, Noon
Literacy Center Balcony

Dr. Bette S. Bergeron

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Higher Education's Role in Public Charter Schools: Past Practices & Future Implications

Abstract: One of the most controversial and potentially contentious issues today related to PK-12 education is the rapid emergence of public charter schools. While maligned by many within higher education, charter school proponents contend that these public entities hold the promise of reforming public education, particularly for the nation's most at-risk and underserved student populations. If we are to think boldly about the future of our profession, and if we are to be resolute in achieving the goal of ensuring that all educators can serve diverse learners and those students who have not been served well in the past, can we in higher education embrace the possibilities (and liabilities) of charter school partnerships?

This presentation will include an overview of public charter schools, including the current context in the State of New York and SUNY's specific role in authorizing the state's public charter schools. Also included will be a case study of a unique partnership between a University (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville) and urban Charter High School in East St. Louis, through which a School of Education assumed increased responsibility for the charter school's operations. The current and future political context will also be offered, including an overview of what the Trump administration's response might be in the proliferation of charter schools nation-wide. The presentation closes with the question-

Is there a role for higher education in the future of public charter schools?