School of Education and Professional Studies Seminar  
*Disciplined Inquiry in Education*

Wednesday, September 18th, 2013  
Noon  
The Literacy Center Balcony - Satterlee Hall

_Eudora Watson_  
_School of Education & Professional Studies_

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**SUNY Potsdam’s Teacher Candidates and the NYSTCE: How are they doing? What are we doing? What’s next?**

**Abstract:** “Our students can’t write.” While this claim has a bit of a ‘kids these days’ feel to it, it is evidence based: across program areas, our teacher candidates typically receive their lowest scores on the constructed response sections of the NYSTCE (New York State Teacher Certification Examinations). However, a closer look at the data offers evidence to refute the claim. In this presentation I will give a tour of the data, an overview of the structure of the exams and how they are changing, and a status report on the Sustained Tutoring Program. I’ll describe the exam preparation support the SOE&PS offers candidates, and discuss what I’ve learned from candidates about their approaches to the exams and attitudes about writing. Options for what should come next will be explored.