

# SUNY Oswego's Teacher Opportunity Corps II Program



In 2016, the State University of New York (SUNY) Oswego's School of Education was awarded Teacher Opportunity Corps II (TOC II) funding of \$325,000 a five year grant, totaling \$1.625 million, to continue their efforts to recruit, prepare and graduate underrepresented teacher candidates to diversify the teaching workforce.

The New York State Department of Education (NYSED) awarded sixteen colleges and universities funding to increase the number of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged individuals, particularly males, entering and being retained in teaching fields. The TOC II grant is part of the NYSED, My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative. The MBK initiative was created in 2014 by President Barack Obama as the My Brother's Keeper task force at the federal level. The task force was an interagency effort focused on closing and eliminating the opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color so that all young people have the chance to reach their full potential.

With this funding, Oswego is able to support 50 pre-service teacher candidates yearly, freshman to graduate students, seeking their initial teacher certification, and includes a year-long residency student teaching experience. The funding provides candidates with financial support toward costs of tuition, books, certification exams, and transportation. As part of Oswego's TOC II program, candidates will also receive academic, social and professional support. In addition, the program creates a safe space for students to discuss issues of diversity and inclusion in areas of teacher training, P-12 schools, and in higher education.

Today's classrooms are filled with diverse P-12 scholars. However, schools fall short of providing enough effective, underrepresented teachers who are prepared to work with our brilliant P-12 scholars in urban and other high need schools. We need to diversify the teaching workforce so that our teachers not only reflect the scholars in today's P-12 classrooms, but to also improve the educational experiences for our scholars and to plant seeds, developing future teachers.

For more information about SUNY Oswego's School of Education TOC II grant funded program, contact the project director Nichole J. Brown at [toc@oswego.edu](mailto:toc@oswego.edu), 315-312-2834, or visit the School of Education's TOC website at <https://www.oswego.edu/field-placement-office/teacher-opportunity-corps-toc>

You can find more information about NYSED MBK Initiative programs by visiting <http://www.nysed.gov/mbk/schools/my-brothers-keeper>