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**Monroe College Awarded \$1.625 Million Grant to Help Prepare Underrepresented and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals for Teaching Careers**

*My Brother's Keeper Teacher Opportunity Corps II Program is Part of a Statewide Initiative To Improve Teacher Diversity across New York's Classrooms*

**BRONX, NY, December 8, 2021** -- [Monroe College](#), a national leader in educating first-generation and international students, proudly announced today that it was awarded a \$1.625 million multi-year grant from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) as part of an initiative to improve teacher diversity across New York's classrooms.

As explained on [NYSED's website](#), the My Brother's Keeper Teacher Opportunity Corps II ("TOC II") grant program was established to "...increase the rate of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged individuals in teaching careers." Monroe has a strong history of improving college access, affordability, and attainment for underserved students, and is extraordinarily proud to help NYSED achieve this important goal through its School of Education.

Monroe will use the grant and its own resources to enroll at least 50 eligible students in its Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Program, offering them the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree with no out-of-pocket costs for tuition and fees. The funding will also be used to provide supplemental financial assistance, enrichment activities, and specialized technology instruction to participants.

"We are very proud to have our programs and outcomes recognized once again and look forward to helping more students prepare for successful careers as teachers thanks to the generosity of NYSED, My Brother's Keeper, and the TOC II grant program," said Dr. Anne Lillis, Dean of the School of Education at Monroe.

Monroe received its first TOC II grant in 2016 and is one of 17 institutions across the state to receive a grant for the 2021-26 cycle. This is the second time the College was awarded the maximum amount allocated to a single institution. The TOC II grant will be awarded to Monroe in five annual payments of \$325,000.

Teacher preparation programs receiving an allocation of the annual \$3.45 million TOC II grant budget were selected based on a number of criteria, including each institution's track record preparing teachers from underrepresented groups and serving the needs of underrepresented and at-risk populations. Other factors included the depth and breadth of collaborative relationships with local schools and other third-parties to facilitate the recruitment, retention, and graduation of teacher preparation program students; institutional staffing and budget commitments; and planned strategies to prioritize equity and diversity in recruiting students to the teacher preparation program, among other elements.

Dr. Lillis added: "We have seen first-hand the incredible difference the program is making in the lives of these future teachers. From our 2016 grant cohort, 53 Monroe students successfully graduated with their early childhood education degrees and no loan debt. Today, more than 92% are working as teachers within the NYC Department of Education, local charter schools and early childhood centers. Those are wonderful statistics that we look forward to expanding, thanks to this second grant."

### **ABOUT MONROE COLLEGE**

Founded in 1933, Monroe College is a recognized leader in educating first-generation and international students. The College is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, and the recognition it has received nationally for its impact on students' social mobility.

Monroe educates more than 8,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from New York campuses in the Bronx and New Rochelle, as well as in the Caribbean nation of St. Lucia. Students may also pursue degree programs through Monroe Online.

Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available. For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroecollege.edu>.

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