

# ROWAN @ Camden



## Message from the Dean

Camden is a class act, literally and figuratively, here at Rowan at Camden.

While we continue to honor our mission of serving city residents with needed educational programming such as our terrific—and terrifically important—English Language Program, we’re also collaborating within the city, and within Rowan, on a host of projects. Those projects will have long-term effects on the education of Camden at all levels.

In this issue of *Rowan at Camden*, you’ll read about a few of those collaborations, including our involvement with the Promise Neighborhood Initiative to provide services to city residents to help stop the circle of intergenerational poverty; the new requirement for all undergraduate teaching majors to complete a foundation course in city schools; new master’s level programming; and a new doctoral program that focuses exclusively on challenges facing urban educators.

Every educational initiative or program we undertake at our college is designed to have a positive impact on the City of Camden. We’re proud of that and will continue to work to build upon that legacy—within our university, within our city...and beyond.

Tyrone W. McCombs, Ph.D.

## TLC brings aspiring teachers to Camden City classrooms

All aspiring teachers at Rowan University are getting a lot of TLC in the Camden schools.

In an important partnership between the campuses in Glassboro and Camden, every education major at Rowan takes Teaching in Learning Communities (TLC), a foundation course for all programs in the College of Education, in a field assignment in Camden.

Through TLC, approximately 575 sophomores experience urban education first hand.

“Our teacher candidates need to have a lot of exposure to diverse children in diverse districts,” says College of Education Dean Carol Sharp. “They need to work with the children...to see that urban schools have talented, hard-working teachers and kids who are vibrant and hungry to learn.”

This huge commitment by Rowan is paying off because it gives education majors an exposure to an aspect of the profession they might never have had... and it positively impacts the education of city children, according to Sharp.

“The end result is—most importantly—about children,” Sharp says.

According to Tyrone McCombs, assistant provost and dean of Rowan at Camden, as a result of the TLC placements, “Elementary Education in Urban Settings” will be a new major offered exclusively on the Camden campus. The entire program—including practicum and student teaching—will take place in the city.

He says this trend is growing in popularity and has yielded some surprising results.

“We’re finding that a lot of students are hooked on urban education after they take TLC,” McCombs says.



**CLASS ACTS:** Rowan education majors Frank Lisante (top) and Melvin Monte (below) work with Camden students as part of their coursework in the Teaching in Learning Communities class.



# For English language learners, program offers a springboard to success—and to education

This semester, Phong Trinh is in sunny California, studying biosensors on a full ride to the doctoral program at the University of Southern California. Quite impressive for someone who, seven years ago, came to America from Vietnam knowing no English.

For 40 years, students have been empowered through the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program.

Trinh gives much of the credit for his successes to his experiences in the English Language Program (ELP) in Camden.

“At Rowan at Camden, the people are very nice,” says Trinh, who graduated summa cum laude from Rowan in May with a degree in chemistry. “The professors helped me a lot. Whenever I had something I didn’t understand, they helped me.”

For 40 years, students like Trinh have been empowered through the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program.



**ON A PATH TO SUCCESS:** Instructor **Ken Gilfillan** leads a course in the English Language Program.

“What was then called ‘The Urban Center’ was developed to reach out to the Spanish speaking population of Camden to provide access to higher education,” says Jacqueline McCafferty, director of ELP.

“Currently we are serving approximately 220 students in all of our programs.”

ELP has continued to grow, with offerings that include:

**Intensive English Language Program:** English Language Learners meet four hours a day, Monday through Friday, to focus on academics to prepare them for university level work. Eligible students may matriculate and receive credit for ESL classes.

**Upward Bound:** One of three high school programs, Upward Bound assists 50 English Language Learners from Woodrow Wilson High School, following them from ninth grade through their third semester of college. Among the program’s services: Saturday academic classes, field trips, after-school programs at the Camden campus, a summer program on the Glassboro campus, and parent classes in ESL.

**Community ESL:** A partnership with two community organizations providing ESL classes to adults in Camden and Pennsauken.

**Teaching ESL Certificate of Graduate Studies (COGS):** See story at left.

“We are now providing ESL and empowerment classes to the parents of bilingual students at Pyne Poynt Middle School in Camden, to help them become advocates for themselves and their children at school and in the community,” McCafferty adds.

## Campus experiences growth in graduate programming

If there’s one word that sums up Rowan at Camden it’s “growth.” While enrollment of undergraduate students taking courses in Camden has doubled to 840 in the past few years, the campus also has seen an explosion of programming in graduate studies.

The curriculum takes two directions: The Certificate of Graduate Study (COGS) in ESL (English as a Second Language) and Bilingual/Bicultural Endorsement and the Doctoral (EdD) Program in Educational Leadership focusing on urban education.

Last spring, the ESL COGS and Bilingual/Bicultural Endorsement programs accepted their first students working toward K-12 ESL certification and bilingual/bicultural endorse-

ment. These students have spent the fall semester in classrooms around South Jersey completing their practicum.

The doctoral program was designed for those who are already teachers, principals or supervisors. Matthew Sharp, principal of the Early Education Program for Children on the Autism Spectrum at Bancroft in Haddonfield, chose Rowan at Camden because of its location—and its solid reputation in training educational leaders.

“They have a great reputation,” says Sharp. “Many leaders in the area have graduated from their programs. I also chose Camden because it’s in the county where I work and I wanted face-to-face collaborative opportunities with local educators in my cohort.”

## Groups unite to fight cycle of poverty

The seeds were planted in Harlem, back in the early 1990s, to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty plaguing that beleaguered New York City neighborhood. Those seeds are now taking root in Camden, with Rowan at Camden leading the way.

As the two principal groups of 13 community organizations, Rowan and the Center for Family Services have teamed up to initiate a pilot program that uses a cradle-to-career approach of free interventions to bolster a faltering Camden neighborhood. Parent workshops, preschools, charter schools, after-school programs and health services are just some of the offerings.

The program's aim is to help children and families on a multitude of levels not only to succeed, but also to flourish.

In July, the 13 neighborhood groups, area businesses and foundations gathered at the Lanning Square Elementary School to sign an agreement to form the Cooper Lanning Promise Neighborhood Initiative. The team is receiving \$50,000 in funds to train members of the team in the Harlem Children's Zone model and to develop a 10-year strategic plan.

Like the Harlem Children's Zone, the Camden program's aim is to help children and families on a multitude of levels not only to succeed, but also to flourish.

"Every day, members of the Cooper Lanning Promise Neighborhood Initiative work individually to improve the city," says Tyrone McCombs, assistant provost and dean of Rowan at Camden.

"But through the Promise Neighborhood Initiative, we're working collectively to stop the cycle of intergenerational poverty in the city we love—and call home."

**MAKING A PROMISE:** Saying, "We have seen in the City of Camden the beginning of a breakthrough of a new day," **Rochelle Hendricks** (center), acting commissioner of the Department of Education, joined with city, state, and community representatives during the ceremony to celebrate the establishment of partnerships in the Cooper Lanning Promise Neighborhood Initiative.



## A passion for history sparks career choice

At 48, Pennsauken's Allison Beverly works as an office manager by day, and pursues a bachelor's degree in history at night at Rowan at Camden.

"After losing my job in 2000, I worked at a couple of non-satisfying jobs, and after much reflection, I decided to go back to school to fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a school teacher.



**FUTURE TEACHER:** Allison Beverly, recipient of the May Scholarship, is studying to become a history teacher.

"I love children and feel I have much to offer them by setting an example of taking pride in themselves, their past and future," Beverly continues. "I felt our rich history was the place to start, which is why I picked history as a major."

Beverly is the recent recipient of the May Scholarship and two others, which were awarded to her for returning to school in mid-life. The May Scholarship, created by alumna Hazel May and her husband, Rev. Thomas May, is awarded every year to Rowan at Camden EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund) student.

"I feel that many of the children of this generation do not realize the importance of the suffering our ancestors went through, from slavery to the civil rights movement," Beverly says. "They are not taking advantage of the many opportunities they have for which people have fought, marched and died. I believe this stems from a lack of history being taught in schools."

Beverly says she chose Rowan at Camden because it is close to her home, offered night classes so that she could work around her children's schedules, and because she'd heard others speak so highly of the professors.



**SCHOOL IS COOL:** Rowan freshman **Celynda Torres** of Camden helped distribute backpacks to city school children this fall through the Cooper Lanning Promise Neighborhood Initiative. For more on the initiative, see page 3.

Find out the latest about Cooper Medical School of Rowan University at [www.rowan.edu/coopermedicalschoool](http://www.rowan.edu/coopermedicalschoool).

## Ground broken for Cooper Medical School of Rowan

Lanning Square Elementary School student Arlene Garcia can really carry a tune. But her heart is in medicine.

“I really like the human body. I want to be a surgeon,” says the Camden seventh-grader, who joined with her classmates and the Cooper Choir to perform for state, county and local officials and members of the Rowan and Cooper communities at a groundbreaking ceremony this fall for Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU).

The six-story, \$139 million, 200,000-square-foot medical school will be the first four-year allopathic medical school ever in South Jersey.

The six-story, \$139 million, 200,000-square-foot medical school will be the first four-year allopathic medical school ever in South Jersey and the first new medical school in the state in more than 30 years. The groundbreaking drew a host of state, county and local officials, including Gov. Chris Christie.

The medical school’s core values include diversity, equity, collaboration, mutual respect, patient advocacy and civic responsibility, said CMSRU Dean Dr. Paul Katz. Camden is the driving force behind that, Katz said.

“Camden is our classroom,” Katz said. “Those few words are driving what we do.”

That commitment wasn’t lost on Garcia, whose group fittingly sang the uplifting pop song “You Raise Me Up” at the ceremony.

“There’s never been a medical school in Camden,” Garcia said with pride. “I want to raise up and be a doctor.”

## Work continues on bank building

Work currently is underway to transform Camden’s historic First National Bank and Trust Company building into a new home for Rowan at Camden.

Once remediation on the building is complete, architectural plans will be developed to determine the best layout of the building at the corner of Cooper and Broadway.

The 44,000 square foot building will allow the campus to triple enrollment, expand academic programming, and draw more traditional-aged undergraduate and graduate students to the city.

### Rowan at Camden by the numbers

Students: 840

Faculty: 61

Funding for academic programs through grants and private donors: \$2 million