

Hello everyone,

My name is Chloë Brushwood Rose and I am the Associate Dean of Academic Programs in the Faculty of Education at York University. I would like to welcome you back to the start of a new academic year, one that I know will be busy but also I hope, productive and enjoyable. I would, of course, like to thank you for your continued work with, and support of, our teacher candidates. As always, it is sincerely appreciated.

This year we are excited to be launching the second year of our new two-year extended Bachelor of Education. We will be joined by our first full cohort in the new program, a combined group of over 1100 year one and year two students.

As you know, the new program is designed to be a place where teacher candidates can make important connections between theory and practice, school and community, through enhanced practicum experiences that value critical analysis, engagement, and collaboration, advancement of both skills and knowledge, and immersion in an environment that respects a shared process of growth and development. We hope the practicum experiences will create spaces where teacher candidates can enact education in pursuit of a more humane and equitable world.

To support these rich practicum experiences, I'd like to introduce you to our Mentoring and Teaching Resource Room, an initiative designed with the support of the Ontario Ministry of Education. Its purpose is to improve communications with you, our mentor teachers, and in particular to provide you with much needed information and resources that we hope will assist you in the very important task of helping to prepare the next generation of teachers.

A series of weekly emails sent directly to you will link you either to Mentor Teacher Updates that will keep you aware of the specific work your teacher candidate is doing in our program or to one of our Mentoring Minutes, short podcasts that help you to understand and explore your role more fully.

Additionally, the site provides easy access to two other sets of resources: the Practicum Resources page includes all the materials, policies and forms you will need to fulfill your role, and the Practicum Program page provides you with the practicum-related curriculum offered to York's teacher candidates.

York is proud of its teacher education program and is grateful for the critical role that our practicum partners play in it. Thank you for offering your time and expertise to our students. We hope that you find it a rewarding and professionally enriching experience.