

March 11, 2025

Dr. Isabel Resende, Superintendent
Nazareth Area School District
One Education Plaza
Nazareth, PA 18064

Dear Dr. Resende,

Delaware Valley University is excited to share great news for individuals interested in pursuing PA special education teacher certification. As former K-12 administrators, we realize the ongoing challenge districts face in hiring and retaining highly qualified, certified special education teachers. This month, Delaware Valley University received a Pennsylvania Department of Education Accelerated PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification grant. This grant allows Delaware Valley University to partner with school districts to provide:

- A one-year, 16-credit accelerated post-baccalaureate PK-12 special education teacher certification program (PA Level I Teacher Certificate)
- Tuition scholarships to ensure affordability for students and school districts
- Mentorship and instructional coaching for program participants

For the past two years, Delaware Valley University has partnered with Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 (CIU20) to offer a post-baccalaureate special education certification program that has a proven record of success in preparing individuals with a bachelor's degree (teaching or non-teaching) to earn their special education certification. The program was developed in collaboration with CIU20's Executive Director, Dr. Christopher Wolfel, his administrative team, superintendents, and principals.

Students will experience courses for which the hallmark is valuable, such as best-practice instruction by experienced special education professionals working at CIU20, bringing to the program their first-hand professional work experience and the most current knowledge in the field. The program includes the following courses:

- GE6122: Positive Behavior and Social Skills in School (3 credits, Summer 2025)
- GE6124: Language, Literacy, and Acquisition (3 credits, Fall 2025)
- GE6121: Special Education Law, Process, and Best Practices (3 credits, Fall 2025)
- GE6123: High Incidence Disabilities (3 credits, Spring 2026)
- GE6125: Low Incidence Disabilities in Schools (4 credits, Summer 2026)

Please share this exciting news with individuals in your district who may be interested in this opportunity. Collectively, we will be able to address the shortage in this extremely important area of certification. We are ready and willing to speak to districts and/or individuals who are interested in earning a special education certificate through this accelerated program. Our next cohort begins in the Summer of 2025, and we look forward to having you join us.

Sincerely,

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