

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STAC HOLDS INFO SESSION FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAMS

(SPARKILL, NY –January 11, 2008) – St. Thomas Aquinas College will host a Graduate Information Session for individuals interested in the College's Master of Science in Education, Master of Science in Teaching, or post graduate studies in Education on Saturday, February 2 at 10 a.m. (snow date: 2/9/08 at 10 a.m.). For reservations or more information, contact the Graduate Admissions Office at 845-398-4100 or e-mail admissions@stac.edu.

The College offers Masters of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) in Literacy, Special Education and Educational Leadership. The M.S.Ed. in Educational Leadership program leads to eligibility for New York State School Building Leader (SBL) certification. The College offers post graduate studies in Literacy and Special Education.

The Information Session will also address the Master of Science in Teaching (M.S.T). The Master of Science in Education programs are an excellent opportunity for teachers to enhance and/or expand on their teaching careers. The M.S.T. program is primarily for individuals who hold an undergraduate degree in a major other than teacher education, but would now like to pursue a career in teaching at the elementary or secondary level.

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St. Thomas' Teacher Education Programs have been awarded NCATE accreditation. The college offers initial Teacher Education Programs at the baccalaureate level in Childhood Education, Childhood and Special Education, and Adolescence Education.

"NCATE's approval of our teacher education programs enhances the education of all our students – whether they major in humanities, mathematics, natural sciences, or social sciences," said Dr. Meenakshi Gajria, chairperson of the division of teacher education.

MORE ON STAC'S GRADUATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The mission of St. Thomas' Teacher Education Program is to prepare educators who are informed decision-makers who create effective learning opportunities for all students. They are effective communicators and collaborators and can create supportive, inclusive environments for learning. St. Thomas' teachers become fully acquainted with the realities of the 21st century classroom.

Based on background and interests, Master of Science in Teaching candidates may select from one of three programs: Childhood Education Grades 1-6 (39 credits), Childhood and Special Education Grades 1-6 (45 credits), and Adolescence Education Grades 7-12 (36 credits). The program can be completed in 16 months with classes offered in the early evening. Upon satisfactory completion, candidates are recommended for New York State initial teacher certification, Grades 1-6 or Grades 7-12. After two years of successful teaching experience, candidates will be eligible for New York State professional teacher certification.

The M.S.Ed. in Literacy and the M.S.Ed. in Special Education are 36 credit programs designed for individuals who have an undergraduate teaching degree. The program can be completed in 15 months. All classes are scheduled for late afternoon to accommodate the schedules of working teachers. The M.S.Ed. in Educational Leadership is a 30-credit program which can be completed in 14 months of part-time study. Classes are held on select Saturdays during the regular semesters and on weekdays during the summer months with a reduced class meeting schedule and an online component. The program leads to eligibility for New York State School Building Leader (SBL) certification.