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ISSUE 2



A Newsletter for Alumni, Current Students, Parents, and Community



# edExpress

Mitchell College Early Childhood Education Program

## Dr. Clouet's Corner

Two quotes are of special importance to me and I hope our students will incorporate them into their actions and beliefs as future educators:

"We must all do the work to make the world worthy of its children." *Pablo Casals, Spain*

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." *Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund*

I am delighted with the energy, passion, and vision of our students!

## Winter Break

Winter break is an excellent time to research job opportunities in your home town. Some districts may have immediate openings for substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, or after school programs.

Even if there isn't formal employment, please consider volunteering in a school. Get information now so that you can get a head start on required fingerprinting and background checks. Every moment matters!

## Celebrating Dr. Gladys Labas Hispanic Heritage Month



*Students bring a wealth of diversity to classrooms across the nation.*

*Multilingualism is a gift that needs to be nurtured by all teachers. We are appreciative to have a national expert working with Mitchell College students.*

*~Chris Clouet, Ed.D.*

Dr. Gladys Labas, Ed.D., was born and raised in Puerto Rico. For over 50 years, she has led a career in bilingual and special education. She first taught in New Britain and then in Meriden Public Schools, where she spent the rest of her career. Through mentorship and hard work, Labas went on to become the assistant principal at Washington Middle School, where she met a seventh-grade student by the name of Miguel Cardona.

"She was a force to be reckoned with and she still is. She always had high standards, high expectations, she was very warm and caring to students," U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona said.

Cardona was the Connecticut commissioner of education until 2021 and now serves as the U.S. Secretary of Education.

She is someone who paved the way for us, she opened doors so that folks like me could believe that they could be in a position of leadership," Cardona said.

"We affectionately call her La Madrina, many of us who came up, especially Latinos that came up looking at her as a role model of someone that can persevere and do it, and do it well," Cardona said.

Oh, my goodness, it's an honor," Labas said. "A Madrina is someone in our culture, if you have to talk to someone, that's who you go to and you know you could trust that person."

See the full interview at:

<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com>

Education majors enrolled in ED206 Integrated Mathematics Course are working hard on a competitive project to build the strongest and longest bridge. These students are learning firsthand how to create a learning environment that fosters teamwork, creativity and critical thinking in a way that is engaging and fun for children.

Pictured Right: Hannah Chee, Sarah Grim, Beth Hennessy, and Katherine Donahue



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## Aspiring Educators

CEA Aspiring Educators program offers unique opportunities in professional development, community outreach, leadership, and networking for future teachers all over the state. These opportunities support and supplement a future teacher's preparation and entry into the teaching profession. Workshops and conferences are offered on a variety of topics.

Several college campuses have local CEA AE chapters that plan a variety of professional development opportunities and community outreach activities throughout the year, including tutoring and mentoring in local schools, planning and implementing afterschool and special events and activities in schools; workshops on their campuses; school supply, canned food, and winter coat drives; an annual Apple Banquet recognizing members' contributions; and more.

CEA Aspiring Educators are also members (and receive the benefits) of the Connecticut Education Association, the National Education Association, and the NEASP.

For more information regarding membership, please email President Tylisha "Lisa" Wilson [Tyelisa.Wilson@my.mitchell.edu](mailto:Tyelisa.Wilson@my.mitchell.edu).

## Call for Alumni

We would love to know more about how you are doing!

Please give us a call or send us an email with any highlights from your career so that we can highlight your accomplishments in our next newsletter.

We rely on the involvement of our graduates, community partners, and current students to assist with program design, evaluation, and the overall continuing improvement process in order to perform regular and systematic review of performance to advise modifications and innovations where identified.

If you would like to offer your feedback, please join us at our next advisory meeting on February 8 at 4:00 p.m. at the Bond House.

