

PDS Center for Teaching and Learning

SUNY Buffalo State English Education



COORDINATOR: James Cercone | English Education | cerconje@buffalostate.edu

Program Overview

PDS Center for Teaching and Learning is a Professional Development Schools Consortium (PDS) internship program for Buffalo State teacher candidates. It includes participation in pre-travel meetings during the fall semester and an immersive 1-week internship at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in Edgecomb, Maine in January.

The CTL (<http://c-t-l.org/>) is a K-8 independent demonstration school that focuses on workshop approaches to literacy learning, small class sizes, respect for children, relationships of trust between faculty and parents, and programs that engage and prepare students for life. CTL was founded by Buffalo State alumna and *Global Teacher Prize* winner, Nancie Atwell, one of the most respected educators in the US and across the world. Nancie's classic *In the Middle*, now in its third edition, has inspired generations of teachers; in it she describes her teaching journey and innovative reading and writing workshop practices that transform elementary and secondary classrooms. The CTL is certified by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and draws from nearly twenty towns and villages to create a loving, close-knit community of students and families.

During the PDS trip, participants will engage in a workshop-based internship where they will observe classrooms at CTL, collaborate with CTL teachers and students, and learn from school administrators and curricular leaders about the cutting-edge cross-curricular literacy practices at CTL. Prior to the trip, participants will read Atwell's seminal work, *In the Middle*, to explore the workshop model and prepare for clinical experiences and discussions at CTL. Research opportunities at the school are also available for interested participants. In addition, participants will explore the quaint towns of coastal Maine, attend a group dinner in Booth's Bay, and stay at a local inn.

Participants pay a program fee of \$500 prior to travel to cover program costs, lodging, and meals. Additional travel costs must be paid separately; students may elect to carpool (9.5 hrs) or fly (approx. \$300). *The \$500 fee is the remaining balance of the overall base program fee of \$1170 minus \$675 in pre-arranged donations from campus organizations including the Professional Development Schools (PDS) consortium, the Western New York Network of English Teachers (WNYNET), and the school deans.*

Application Timeline & Process

Deadline to Apply	October 3, 2022
Interviews /Notification of Acceptance	October 2022
Pre-Travel Meetings	November-December 2022
Travel to Maine	January 16-20, 2023
Eligibility	Open to all undergraduate and graduate teacher candidates, <i>including those who are graduating the December before travel</i> . Best fit for junior or higher. <i>Contact coordinators to discuss.</i>
Requirements	Must be a currently enrolled Buffalo State student. Must maintain good academic standing.
To Apply	Submit the following materials (electronically) to James Cercone: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Completed Application Form- Completed Academic Reference Form- Typed Statement of Intent (in response to provided prompts)- Copy of grades and registration (transcript, Degree Works, Banner)
To Participate	Selected participants must submit all final payments by the deadlines specified, complete required paperwork and processes, participate in the pre-travel meetings, and adhere to all travel guidelines.

PDS Center for Teaching and Learning | Application Form

Application Submission & Process

Submit complete form and attachments by email to:
James Cercone | English Ed | cerconeje@buffalostate.edu

Deadline to Apply: October 3, 2022

Applicant Checklist

- Completed Application Form
- Completed Academic Reference Form
- Typed Statement of Intent
- Copy of grades and registration
- I am a Buffalo State teacher education student
- I am currently in good academic standing

Supplemental Materials

TRANSCRIPT – Attach a copy of your most recent transcript (unofficial is acceptable), Degree Works printout, or Banner printout. The materials must show you are a registered Buffalo State student and indicate your GPA.

ACADEMIC REFERENCE – You must submit one academic reference. Ask a recent university instructor or academic advisor to complete the “Academic Reference Form.”

STATEMENT OF INTENT – Submit a typed response of no more than 500 words to the following prompts. Be thorough so reviewers can get a clear picture of your interest and intent with regards to this program.

- (1) What do you hope to gain from this program professionally/academically and personally? How you plan to integrate your experiences into your teaching?
- (2) What do you hope to bring to the program (our hosts, the children in the schools, your peers, etc.)?
- (3) What characteristics and experiences will help you be successful in this program? What are your interests? What are your strengths and challenges? How do you handle stressful situations?

Emergency Contact

Name _____

Relationship to You _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Personal Information

Name _____
last

_____ first _____ middle

Date of Birth _____ Preferred Pronoun _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Mailing Address _____
street

_____ city _____ state _____ zip

Buffalo State Email _____

Phone (mobile) _____

Racial/Ethnic Background _____

Education Information

- Graduate Student Undergraduate Student

Banner ID # _____

Department _____

Major _____

Academic Advisor _____

Expected Graduation Date _____

Cumulative GPA _____ Major GPA _____

Travel & Homestay Information

TRANSPORTATION TO MAINE:

- I would like to drive or fly on my own.
- I would like to drive and can bring other participants.
- I would like to ride with another participant or leader.
- I have no transportation preference.

Are you allergic to animals? Yes No

Are you able to stay in a home that has pets? Yes No

Do you smoke? Yes No

Can you tolerate smoking? Yes No

Dietary Practices or Needs

Allergies or Health Concerns

PDS Center for Teaching and Learning | Academic Reference Form

Email completed form or questions to the program coordinator:
James Cercone ♦ English Education ♦ cerconeje@buffalostate.edu

Name _____ Title _____

Institution _____ Department _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Applicant's Name _____

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

In comparison with other students you have known, please rate (circle one) the applicant on the following characteristics. In a separate letter or below, please elaborate on any of the characteristics, describe the student's strengths related to studying abroad, explain any of the student's weakness related to studying abroad, and/or provide additional comments regarding the applicant's potential for this program.

Motivation/Initiative Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Integrity (commitment to high ethical standards) Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Problem Solving Skills Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Common Sense and Good Judgment Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Interpersonal Skills (ability to work well with others) Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Coping Skills (ability to deal with stress, ambiguity, unusual situations) Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Writing Skills Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Verbal Communication Skills Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

Self-Concept (extent of self-esteem, positive self regard) Excellent Good Average Poor Unknown

I would would not expect the student to be appropriate and considerate as a homestay participant

I would would not expect the student to be a positive addition to a travel group

Comments _____
