

Dr. Sarah E. Church  
Assistant Professor of Education  
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College, The City University of New York  
Bronx, New York

Educational background

AB, Brooklyn College, The City University of New York  
Ed. M, Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Ed. D, St. John's University, School of Education

Past positions related to teacher education

Assistant Professor of Education, Hostos Community College  
Doctoral Fellow, St. John's University  
Research Assistant, St. John's University  
Director of Academic Programs, Dowling College School of Education  
Assistant to the Dean of Education, Dowling College  
Project Coordinator, Community Tutoring Project for At-Risk English as a Second Language Students, Brooklyn College

National educational memberships including past or current positions

American Educational Research Association  
National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
New York State Association for the Education of Young Children

What is your vision for community college teacher education programs?

My vision for community colleges is that students' credits and degrees are given full recognition and conversion when students transfer within city and state institutions. This would require the development of well-organized student articulation programs between community colleges and four-year colleges. Many teacher-education students at community colleges wish to become licensed classroom teachers, and in order to do that, students must complete a four-year degree. This requires that the community college student transfer to a four-year college. Often these students lose valuable college credits that they have worked quite hard to earn; the credit may transfer as an elective credit but the number of elective credits a student needs in a four-year degree is much less than what they typically have transferred from the community college. Often my own students voice their concerns over the low number of courses that they are allowed to transfer to New York State and city universities.

I believe at the heart of this issue is an assumption that universities make, that community college courses are not equivalent to their own. This is an assumption with which I do not agree. Ultimately, I would like to see community college credits be transferred to four-year colleges with the same value as a four-year college credit is now accepted.

What advice would you give to a future teacher?

My advice to future teachers is to spend as much time as possible in classrooms observing and assisting teachers. Volunteer. Find a job. Do whatever it takes to spend real time in a classroom. Talk to your favorite professor; he or she will have connections to schools. Contact the career services office at your college; they should have contacts as well.

Why do I give this advice? In my opinion, the best way to expand one's knowledge of teaching is with hands-on experience. In addition, such experience also provides valuable contacts with teachers who may provide job recommendations for one's first real teaching position. It will help build a resume that makes a candidate stand out from the crowd. Most of all, a budding teacher will get to spend time with children who will melt his/her heart.

#### Interest or hobbies

I do beading, make custom-design clothing and quilts, read, and love to travel. Many of my students are from countries outside the USA and my goal is to travel to as many of their homelands as possible. I keep a world map in my office and ask my students to stop by and place a red dot on their country of origin. I have many red dots across the world map, which means that I have many future adventures in store!