Title: The Diversification of Education and Mental Health Professions Through the SOE Rising Scholar Mentor Program

Responsible Unit: School of Education

The SOE Rising Scholar program will provide mentoring from a current SOE graduate student, monthly conversations with faculty and peers, as well as an undergraduate research experience with faculty. To assist with the financial challenges, students in the program will receive a stipend to cover research costs. For students who maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0, and are interested in pursuing graduate studies in education and mental health, the program will cover the costs of the GRE and application to a University at Albany graduate program. In addition, the School of Education (SOE) has designated $15,000 in scholarships from its endowment to Rising Scholars to help offset the cost of graduate education. This program is designed to address the academic, social, and financial obstacles students from under-represented backgrounds too often face.

The program is designed to provide an ecosystem of support for undergraduates to pursue graduate education through a unique set of experiences, including mentoring from SOE graduate students, monthly engagement sessions with SOE faculty, undergraduate research opportunities, and access to SOE scholarships reserved for Rising Scholars. The ultimate goal is to position University at Albany’s SOE as a national leader in preparing a diverse set of educators and mental health professionals that reflect the changing demographics of New York.

The ultimate goal of the program is to create a self-sustaining and thriving community of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and Rising Scholar alums that cultivate and support an ongoing pipeline of diverse educators and mental health practitioners.