The Institute for Career Exploration will provide high school juniors and undergraduate students with an opportunity to explore the field of education, and the range of options for equitable access to professional degrees and opportunities. The Institute aims to provide a diverse population of urban students from local community high schools in the Albany, Schenectady, and Troy school districts, and the diverse undergraduate population of University at Albany, with a better understanding of the opportunities available to them through matriculation at the University at Albany and in the School of Education. The goal of the Institute is to aid in the promotion of a racially diverse workforce of educational professionals by specifically targeting local need for, and support of a community of students who are representative of the diverse student body of today's schools. The process for undergraduate matriculation, mentorship for student retention, and a pathway for graduate admissions through the BA/MA programs in the School of Education (SOE) will be shared.

In preparation for the Full Day Campus Symposium to take place at UAlbany in Spring 2020, the Institute will connect with local High Schools to facilitate interest in the symposium and build an application process via collaboration with guidance counselors and other instructional staff. Undergraduates interested in Education field will be invited to attend the Institute via advisors and direct opportunities to register via the SOE.

An online process of information and discussions will be used to prepare participants for the symposium and to extend learning beyond the symposium. Criteria for participation will be flexible so as to encourage a wide range of participants, and to ensure that the Institute can fulfill its purpose of addressing more equitable approaches for participation in college education, and sustain the university commitment to Community Engagement. The Full Day Campus Symposium will feature dynamic speakers who will outline the benefit of, and need for greater diversity in education and mental health practice. Student and faculty panels will provide participants exposure to the range of opportunities in the SOE, and pathways to building a career in education and mental health. Additionally panelists will outline ways in which UAlbany supports racial and ethnic diversity among its undergraduate population.