

College of Education & *Human Development*

UFC Report

January 6th, 2026

Submitted by Pete Kelly

- MSN Update: Elizabeth Ritt (EdD and MSN) was hired as the interim director of the MSN program to lead efforts to prepare for its fall 2026 launch. Elizabeth's contract runs through June as we continue the search for a permanent director. She has extensive experience in leading nursing programs and has previously served as clinical professor at SUNY Downstate, the Board Chair at the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), professor and dean of the College of Science at Benedictine University, and many other roles across a very distinguished career.
- Focused recruiting: Based on extensive collaboration with HR directors in our k-12 partner schools, Jennifer Walker has taken the lead on developing a program to meet the needs of the increasing number of provisionally licensed teachers in the area. The hybrid online/face to face program is structured for working professionals, and we expect to enroll students spring 2026.
- Rachel Bowman received a 25,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Education to support the professional development needs of provisionally licensed special education teachers in our region.