

## **Alfred University school psychology master's program earns accreditation**

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ALFRED -- The Master of Arts/Certificate of Advanced Study program in Alfred University's Division of School Psychology has been awarded a renewal of its accreditation from the National Association of School Psychologists. Dr. Nancy Evangelista, assistant professor of school psychology, who successfully applied for continued approval from the NASP, said the re-accreditation is key to the continued success of the MA/CAS program. "It's an extremely effective recruiting tool," she said. "Students considering schools have that (NASP approval) as one of their top priorities." Indeed, only graduates of NASP-accredited programs are automatically eligible to become nationally certified school psychologists (NCSP) under the guidelines of the National School Psychology Certification System (NSPCS). Twenty-one states use the NSPCS as part of their standard for certification for school psychologists. Alfred University is one of only 13 institutions in New York State with a NASP-approved graduate program in school psychology. The National Association of School Psychologists reviews school psychology specialist programs and approves those programs which meet NASP standards. Alfred University's MA/CAS program was first accredited by NASP in 1994 and was re-accredited in 1999 and again this year. Evangelista said a NASP accreditation panel considered program structure (including the number of faculty); the curriculum and how it relates to the skills required of school psychologists; level of training; the degree by which the Division conducts self-assessment of the program; student progress and internship opportunities; and student feedback. "This is a very important certification," Evangelista said. "It recognizes the quality of the program here at Alfred. It assures our graduates that they are receiving the highest level of training."