

WHY SUPPORT RESEARCH AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION?

FOR STARTERS, SO SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS RECEIVE THE BEST TEACHING POSSIBLE.

The Department of Education (ED) research programs are dedicated to promoting student achievement and preparing for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence. Boston University receives more than \$3.3 million in research grants from the ED to further our understanding of how students learn and expand their knowledge of cultures abroad.

■ WHICH SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS ARE TRULY SPECIAL? The quality of teaching makes a huge difference in how well a student learns. But over the years, most assessments of teachers focused only on general education. Nathan Jones, assistant professor of education, is changing that. With funding from the Institute for Education Sciences, he is researching how to effectively measure special education teachers while also contributing to our understanding of the characteristics, processes, and outcomes that are associated with high-quality special education classroom contexts. The better we can assess special educators, the better chance we have of helping every child succeed.

■ KEEPING THE US AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY. Algorithmic data mining, operating system support for multi-core and embedded systems, theoretical complexity of parallel computing. Doesn't exactly roll off the tongue. And experts in those fields don't roll off assembly lines. But three are set to complete their doctorates in 2017 at the Boston University Department of Computer Science, thanks to fellowships from ED's Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), which supports exceptional graduate students with financial need who commit to research and training in scientific areas of high need. It's a program that pays forward. And upward.

■ A SMART INVESTMENT, IN ANY LANGUAGE. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships enable exceptional students to study modern foreign languages. At Boston University, they are awarded to students learning African languages such as Amharic, Igbo, Hausa, and Swahili. In fact, two School of Public Health graduate students will be using FLAS awards to study Wolof and Zulu. One of them, Dan Flanagan, says language proficiency is absolutely necessary for "making sure that people in public health or in medicine are well equipped to provide the care that people need." A program that brings the world together—that's putting our money where our mouths are.

We hope you'll give strong consideration to supporting research funding for the ED. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further the role that ED research plays in our daily lives, please visit bu.edu/federal.



WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO EVALUATE SPECIAL EDUCATORS? **BOSTON UNIVERSITY** IS WORKING ON THE ANSWER.