

WHY SUPPORT RESEARCH AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION?

SO YOU CAN SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES, HELP STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM, AND GIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS WHAT THEY NEED TO TEACH.

And that's just for starters. Through \$2.9 million in research grants, Boston University has been helping the Department of Education (ED) not only foster educational excellence but also provide support and understanding for the educational system and everyone in it.

■ SEMPER FI FAMILY

When members of the military are called on to serve, their families are called on as well. To figure out the best way to support students with parents on active duty, Renée Spencer, Boston University professor of human behavior, is using a grant from the ED's Institute of Education Sciences to improve social and educational outcomes for military-connected students. The project will show schools how to lessen the disruptive effect of moving 2–3 times a year, utilize military family culture to help students succeed in the classroom, and reduce the stress students experience when a parent or guardian deploys. So while parents enjoy the support of their military brothers and sisters overseas, their children can feel the same comradery at home.

■ WELCOME TO AUTISM IN ADULTHOOD. NOW WHAT DO I DO?

Identifying and diagnosing autism in childhood is the first step. Next comes helping students with autism learn and socialize. But what happens when those kids grow up and go off on their own? Gael Orsmond and Wendy Coster, Boston University professors of occupational therapy, intend to not only find out but help teachers prepare students to succeed. With a \$1.6 million grant from the ED's Institute of Education Sciences, they will study how students on the autism spectrum who graduate high school manage the responsibilities of adulthood. Then based on their research, they'll create best practices for high schools so young adults on the autism spectrum can live productive, happy, independent lives. The study is called "The ROAD Ahead," and although it'll be a long journey, the destination will be totally worth it.

■ IT'S A CHALLENGE TO TEACH CHALLENGING STUDENTS.

Most special education teachers feel like they're stuck between a rock and a hard place. Their students need a lot of support, but they just don't have enough resources to help them. Which is why Elizabeth Bettini, Boston University assistant professor of special education, is using a \$400,000 grant from the ED's Institute of Education Sciences to measure and assess the working conditions of special education teachers. Her ultimate goal is to show school districts which working conditions are most beneficial to special education instruction. This will help teachers get what they need to be effective and productive in the classroom and feel more supported by their school systems.

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



\$1.4 MILLION WAS GRANTED TO A **BOSTON UNIVERSITY** RESEARCHER TO HELP SCHOOLS SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES DURING ACTIVE DUTY.