

## **Dr. Mary Lynne Calhoun - Transcript**

Hello, I'm Mary Lynne Calhoun, Dean of the College of Education at UNC-Charlotte, and It's my great pleasure to welcome you to UNC- Charlotte's Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education and to congratulate you on this decision, your decision to study in this program and to prepare to become an excellent special education teacher.

You're probably aware of the research that suggests that the presence of a highly competent, caring, and well qualified teacher is the single most important variable for students' success.

You're probably aware as well that students with special needs need teachers like you more than any other child and that there is a great teacher shortage in North Carolina in the field of special education.

By choosing to come to a graduate level program that's rigorous, relevant, and populated by wonderful faculty and wonderful students you will prepare for what must be one of the best jobs in the world.

So let me extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of the College of Education. Let me be part of your support team and cheerleading team and know that I wish you the greatest success in this very important program.