Dr. Heidi McCarthy has extensive experience in the field of special education where she has worked for over forty years. She has held various positions during her career including twenty-five years as a special education administrator for public schools, County Departments of Health and non- profit private organizations. Heidi is a longstanding member of the Board of Directors of the New York Council of Administrators of Special Education (NYCASE) having held positions of Vice President and President. Heidi's particular areas of interest and expertise include inclusive education, early childhood education and mentoring new Special Education administrators. In 2024, Heidi was honored with the NYCASE Friend of Special Education Award which is given to recognize the lifetime achievement of an individual who has advocated for the needs of students with disabilities and their families by influencing the development of policy or legislation. Dr. McCarthy holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from SUC at Fredonia and Masters of Arts, Masters of Education and Doctor of Education Degrees from Columbia University Teachers College.