

Awards for Innovation Final Report

Title of Research Study:

Preparing Provisionally Certified Career and Technical Education Teachers for Inclusion

Investigators, Institution:

Dr. Cynthia Sims, Assistant Professor
Ms. Tasha Coney, Alternative Certification Coordinator/Instructor

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Department of Workforce Education and Development
Mailcode 4605
475 Clocktower Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901
618.453.1976
618.453.1909 (fax)

Strand Project Addressed

The training program is designed with components that focus on increasing effective instruction for students with special needs to assist in the professional development of provisionally certified Career and Technical Education teachers.

Overview of Research Study

The purpose of this research project was to contribute to the understanding of provisionally certified Career and Technical Education teachers regarding aspects of inclusion. More specifically, the training program was designed with components that focus on increasing effective instruction for students with special needs to assist in the professional development of Career and Technical Education teachers who work with special needs students in their classrooms.

The subject pool for this project was Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers employed with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), specifically, those teachers who are working under a provisional certification and may not have received formal training during post-secondary studies in the area of special education and inclusion and instruction of students with special needs.

Subjects were recruited through a CPS liaison who works to coordinate teacher professional development. The liaison offered the project topics as the CTE Saturday Toolbox workshops and teachers chose the sessions in which they wanted to participate. Participants were contacted in regards to participating in this research project and most chose to complete the full set of five.

Before the initial workshop, participants completed a survey to measure prior knowledge and education of inclusion, special needs, and accommodations. After the final workshop, participants were asked to complete a survey to measure the amount of gained knowledge as well as the use of that knowledge.

Early work results of the workshops were presented at the 2010 Connections conference in accordance with grant requirements.

Project Deliverables

SSET for CTE: Supplemental Special Education Training for Provisionally Certified CTE Teachers Curriculum offers a set of empowering workshops that introduce educators to enlightening information regarding special needs students. These 1.5 to 2 hour workshops cover:

- Understanding and Identifying Learning Disabilities: Specific Learning Disabilities
- Understanding and Identifying Learning Disabilities: Speech or Language Impairments
- Understanding and Identifying Learning Disabilities: Mental Retardation/Intellectual disabilities
- Understanding and Identifying Learning Disabilities: Other Health Impairments
- Strategies and Activities for Special Needs Students in FCS classrooms
- Understanding and Identifying Learning Disabilities: Emotional Behavior Disability (EBD)
- Individual Education Plan (IEP)
Part 1: Definition of Parts and Procedures
- Individual Education Plan (IEP)
Part 2: Participants and Responsibilities of the IEP Committee
- Parent Involvement

Project Sustainability and Future project research/ presentation endeavors

- At the completion of the workshops, the director of the Department of College and Career Preparation office for the school system expressed satisfaction with the workshops and extended an invitation for the workshops to be presented again next year
- Solicitation of additional school districts of the southern Illinois region for new locations to present the curriculum to provisionally certified and new teachers
- Submission of the research project for presentation at future American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) conferences
- Submission of the research project for presentation at future Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) conferences
- Submission for publication of research project findings with Techniques magazine