

# 2007-2008 Blumberg Center Annual Report

## Mission Statement:

The Blumberg Center will continue its tradition to benefit persons with exceptionalities, persons with potential exceptionalities whose performance is adversely affecting educational outcomes, and those who work with them, through service, education, and research; and, through facilitating and supporting the intertwined missions of the Department of Communication Disorders, Counseling, School and Educational Psychology and the Department of Elementary, Early and Special Education.

## Year In Review

**Experiential Learning Opportunities for ISU Students.** The Blumberg Center has provided experiential learning opportunities for approximately 190 ISU College of Education students through activities such as course presentation, interactive trainings, and audioconferences. Such topical sessions expand upon students' coursework and focus upon contemporary educational issues in Indiana.

**Community Outreach.** The Blumberg Center continues to provide professional development and consultation to educators, family members, and community agency representatives in West Central Indiana and across the state. Over the last year, Blumberg Center staff and consultants conducted training and technical assistance for a total of 3,768 people in Indiana. Trainings are designed to support local capacity building for improving educational outcomes for individuals with disabilities or learning challenges.

**Supporting state and federal initiatives in education.** Blumberg Center staff is instrumental in various state and federal education initiatives through participation on task forces, facilitation of policy development, and providing technical assistance. For example, staff have participated on the Indiana Civil Rights Commission Education Steering Committee, Indiana Commission on Disproportionality in Youth Services, Indiana Educational Interpreter's Task Force, National Intervener Task Force, and the Area 2 National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness Community of Practice.

**Collaborations to Promote Disability Awareness.** The Blumberg Center collaborated with numerous entities both at ISU and in the local community to promote disability awareness during Disability Awareness Month in March. Activities specifically addressed topics that are relevant for the local community and of interest to ISU faculty/staff/students, community members, and individuals with disabilities. Both nationally- and state-recognized leaders in the area of disability education and employment were involved in the 2008 Disability Awareness Series which distinguishes ISU's efforts in this arena.

**Grant funds and services increased.** The Blumberg Center continued its success in securing state and federal grants and contracts to provide professional development, conduct research, and offer licensing programs to Indiana educators, family members, and community representatives. Grants and contracts for the 2007-2008 year totaled \$1,618,727 with indirects funds of \$ 75,048. This represents an increase of \$396,539 over the 2006-2007 funding. These projects provide a tremendous amount of service to the state and local communities, along with recognition for the College of Education and the University.

### **Assessment:**

The Blumberg Center continuously evaluates the quality and effectiveness of services in two ways. One, evaluations and feedback are conducted during each of the Center's trainings and sessions. This data is obtained through evaluations, interviews, surveys, and focus groups. Evaluation feedback is then reviewed by staff to identify areas of strength and opportunities for future improvement. Second, the Center conducts an annual evaluation of activities and services through the use of goal attainment scaling. Data is reviewed in January (mid-year progress evaluation) and June by Center Staff and the Center Steering Council which is composed of College of Education faculty. Mid-year evaluation data from January of 2008 indicated performance at or above expected levels on six of ten subscales.

### **Community Engagement:**

#### **Project Name: Blumberg Center Topical Series**

Description: Our staff worked to provide a series of topical sessions that were open to ISU faculty, staff and students; local school district personnel; family members; and community agencies. Topics included issues relevant to the Center's mission to support individuals with disabilities or at-risk for disabilities. Topics included Tier III within Response to Intervention, DIBELS Trainings (2) for ISU EESE students, Blumberg Presents! at Family Learning Day, ISU Student Association of School Psychologists, Response to Intervention Audioconference and Cyberbullying.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's grant funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

Topical sessions provided an opportunity for faculty, students, staff, family members and representatives of the local education community to engage in learning, dialogue, and networking related to current issues in education.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

Bridget Roberts-Pittman, James Jacobs, Rebecca Hinshaw, Vanessa Coonrod, Beth Whitaker, Kathy Bauserman, Deborah Flurke, Tonya Balch, Maury Miller

Who from the community is involved?

Family members, local school district personnel, guest presenters, students from local school districts

Who from ISU is involved?

Claire Thorsen, Karen Goehl, Leah Nellis, Kenneth Walker, Marlene Lu, Teresa Reynolds, Renae Azziz, Ginger Miller

Number of students: 165

Number of ISU Faculty/Staff: 17

Where it takes/too place: Indiana State University, Vigo County Public Library, Booker T. Washington Community Center

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: Problem Solving Training for ISU College of Education Students**

Description: Our staff provided classroom trainings to higher education faculty, graduate students and undergraduate student teachers in the College of Education on how to use problem solving tools within a process designed to support teams in the design and evaluation of interventions for struggling students. This training supports faculty to integrate problem solving into their courses and provides students with knowledge and experience regarding a process used in many schools throughout Indiana.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's grant funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

The preservice teachers, speech/language pathologists and school psychologists learn tools and process that will enhance their skills as they enter the education workforce in many Indiana schools.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

Tonya Balch

Who from the community is involved?

Students in elementary education, special education, communication disorders, and school psychology, and ISU faculty.

Who from ISU is involved?

Rena Azziz, Ginger Miller, Jim Jacobs, Marlene Lu

Number of students: 21

Where it takes/too place: Indiana State University

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: March Disability Awareness**

Description: Since its establishment in 1985 Blumberg Center's mission has been to benefit persons with exiting or potential exceptionalities through service, education, and research activities, conducted in collaboration with programs and departments of the Indiana State University and the surrounding community. Activities are conducted to spotlight disability awareness through partnerships, allowing the center to play a critical role in supporting collaborative teams across a variety of projects.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's endowment funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

Programs have provided an opportunity for faculty, students, staff, family members and representatives of the local community to engage in learning, dialogue, and networking to create an awareness of needs for persons with disabilities.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

none

Who from the community is involved?

Family members, local school district personnel, guest presenters

Who from ISU is involved?

Leah Nellis, Alberta Comer, Nancy Merritt, Karen Goehl, Marlene Lu, Carol Jinbo, Maria Greninger, Paula Meyer, Michelle Bennett, Linda Crosset, Darla Crist, Beverly Grubb, Nicole Dickhaus\*, Travis Allison\*, Erin Allison\*, Jenna Alami\*, Jared Robertson\*, Michael Sales\* (\*students)

Number of students: undetermined

Where it takes/took place: Indiana State University

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: Awareness of Tiered Systems of Prevention and Intervention**

Description: The Collaborative Problem Solving Project (CPSP) staff works with district/school staff in a session offered to support the development of a common understanding and shared language at a local district or school level regarding integrated systems, or response to intervention. Participants include administrators, teachers, and pupil service providers and are facilitated by a CPSP project team as either a half or full day session that takes place on-site in the district.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's grant funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

Indiana school administrators, teachers, and student support personnel have increase their knowledge and skills regarding the utilization of a tiered system of prevention and intervention for addressing the academic, behavioral, and social/emotional needs of all students.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

None

Who from the community is involved?

Local school district administrators, teachers, pupil service providers (1,105 involved)

Who from ISU is involved?

Leah Nellis, Renae Azziz, Ginger Miller, Claire Thorsen, Judy Wesley, Jo Seidel, Carol Sectors, Marlene Lu

Number of students: none

Where it takes/too place: Napanee, Indianapolis, Vincennes, Jasper, Kokomo, Washington, Brownsburg, Crawfordsville, Evansville, Terre Haute, Anderson, Jasper, Scottsburg, LaPorte, Paoli, Brookston, Madison

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: Facilitated Planning for Local Implementation of Tiered Systems of Prevention and Intervention**

Description: Facilitated Planning sessions are offered to support district and schools in exploring questions about how to proceed in implementing an Integrated and Tiered System or Response to Intervention model, and exploring the needs of the local school community. As part of such sessions, school staff reflect upon current practices, review data from multiple sources, and identify knowledge, skill, disposition and resources needs in areas which have been identified as critical to the successful implementation of a tiered support model.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's grant funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

Indiana school administrators, teachers, and student support personnel have increased local capacity to implement tiered systems of prevention and intervention as part of school improvement efforts and reforms.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

None

Who from the community is involved?

Local school district administrators and teachers (81 involved)

Who from ISU is involved?

Leah Nellis, Renae Azziz, Ginger Miller, Claire Thorsen, Judy Wesley, Jo Seidel, Carol Sectors, Marlene Lu

Number of students: none

Where it takes/too place: Benton Co., Nappanee

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills: Administration and Analysis**

Description: DIBELS Administration and Analysis sessions are offered to support districts and schools in the effective implementation of the use of DIBELS measures to support literacy development. Three types of trainings are available: DIBELS Administration, DIBELS Analysis, and Integration into School Improvement. The training provides opportunities for guided practice with both the teacher's role and the student's role with each of the DIBELS measures. The DIBELS Administration training is a full day of training provided to 1-2 grade level teams for each of the following benchmark periods: fall, winter, and spring.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's grant funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

Indiana school administrators, teachers, and student support personnel have increased their knowledge and skills in the assessment and interpretation of early literacy skill data. As a result, teachers and administrators are better able to use student level data to plan instruction and develop additional intervention programs for students in need.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

Kathy Bauserman

Who from the community is involved?

Local school district administrators and teachers (137 involved)

Who from ISU is involved?

Ginger Miller, Judy Wesley, Jo Seidel, Carol Sector, Marlene Lu

Number of students: 1

Where it takes/too place: Cloverdale, Pierceton

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: Problem Solving for Building Based Core Teams**

Description: The Collaborative Problem Solving Project (CPSP) staff works with district/school leadership team in a training offered to support a school building to utilize a problem solving method to address the academic, behavioral, and functional needs of struggling students. The problem solving method involves multiple phases, including identifying the concern or problem, analyzing why the problem exists, determining the best way to address the concern, and evaluating progress or responsiveness. School teams made up of 5-7 members participate in a one-day training with a follow-up session later in the year to discuss progress.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's grant funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

School leadership teams learn the problem solving process, increasing their skills in data analysis and development of individualized intervention plans designed to increase student achievement.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

None

Who from the community is involved?

Principals, administrators, teachers and members of building-based teams from 64 elementary, 12 middle schools (816 involved)

Who from ISU is involved?

Rena Azziz, Angie McKinney, Ginger Miller, Leah Nellis, Carol Sector, Jo Seidel, Judy Wesley, Claire Thorsen, Marlene Lu

Number of students: None

Where it takes/too place: Lebanon, Goshen, Evansville, Jeffersonville, Elkhart, Indianapolis, Benton Co., Tippecanoe Valley, Sunman, Kokomo

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: Essentials of Facilitation of Individual Education Programs**

Description: The Collaborative Problem Solving Project provides intensive, three-day training to experienced educators and administrators, family members, and community agency representatives in the use of facilitation and conflict resolution skills for the development of legally compliant individual education programs for students with disabilities.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's grant funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

Participants develop facilitation skills which can be applied to a variety of team meetings, ranging from basic to highly contentious meetings, to promote collaborative problem solving and develop effective educational plans for students.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

None

Who from the community is involved?

Family members, local school district administrators and teachers, legal representatives (71 involved)

Who from ISU is involved?

Claire Thorsen

Number of students: None

Where it takes/too place: Indianapolis, Jasper

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: Academy for School Psychologists**

Description: The Academy for School Psychologists is an intensive, five-day series of professional development sessions distributed across the academic year. The Academy is open to a small cohort of school psychology practitioners and focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for implementation of tiered systems of prevention and intervention.

How do you see community engagement activities fitting in with your department in the future?

The Center's grant funded projects will continue to emphasize community engagement in the local region and across the state that provides for faculty and student involvement.

What do you feel has been the impact of the project?

Academy participants have increased their capacity to lead and support the implementation of tiered systems at the local level. Participants and supporting administrators report increased leadership roles, job satisfaction, and student outcomes.

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class

None

Who from the community is involved?

Statewide school district school psychologists and other personnel, Indiana University faculty (277 involved)

Who from ISU is involved?

Leah Nellis, Renae Azziz, Ginger Miller, Claire Thorsen, Judy Wesley, Jo Seidel, Carol Sector, Maury Miller, Marlene Lu

Number of students: 6

Where it takes/too place: Indiana State University, Indianapolis

Is this activity ongoing: Yes

**Project Name: Indiana Deafblind Services Project**

Brief Description: The Technical Assistance Facilitator (TAF) Training Program is a part of the Indiana Deafblind Services Project. The two year TAF program was designed to build state capacity by providing professional development opportunities in the area of deafblindness and significant disabilities. Specific topic areas to be covered include: vision, hearing, deafblindness, communication, positive behavior supports, person-centered planning and orientation and mobility. Participants attended two weekend seminars and one summer institute during 2007-08. They can earn up to six graduate credits per year through ISU.

Who from ISU is involved: Department of Early, Elementary and Special Education, Karen Goehl, Director; Lisa Poff, Program Coordinator, Sharon Bryan, Administrative Specialist; Liz Asay, Clerical Support.

Who from the community is involved: A number of guest presenters and consultants are used for weekend seminars and the summer institute.

Number of students: 3

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class: Karen Goehl (ISU Adjunct, Department of Early, Elementary and Special Education.

Where it took place: College of Education at ISU and Indianapolis

What do you feel has been the impact of the project:

Participants who complete the TAF program will increase their knowledge and skills in the area of deafblindness and will be better prepared to share their expertise with other educators, family members and service providers, thus building state capacity.

Is this activity ongoing? Students will complete the program during the 2008 fall semester.

**Project Name: Project Vision**

Brief Description: Project Vision's Exceptional Needs: Visual Impairment Program is a collaboration sponsored by the Indiana Department of Education, Center for Exceptional Learners, Indiana State University and Ball State University. The purpose of the licensure program is to train teachers to work with students who are blind or have low vision. Coursework includes: Distance Education Coursework (16 hours) combined with monthly face-to-face classes and a minimum of one weekend seminar per semester held either in the College of Education at ISU or at a school or agency building in Indianapolis.

Who from ISU is involved: Dr. Maurice Miller, Department of Early, Elementary and Special Education, Karen Goehl, Director; Sharon Bryan, Administrative Specialist; Liz Asay, Clerical Support, Stephanie Held, student worker.

Who from the community is involved: A number of guest presenters are used for face-to-face classes and weekend seminars.

Number of students: 11

Faculty involved with students in this project outside of class Dr. Maurice Miller (ISU); Dr. John Merbler (BSU). Adjunct Faculty (ISU): Karen Goehl, Glenna Timmons, Lynda Keim, Bill Powell, Becky Smallwood. Adjunct Faculty (BSU): Dr. Sharon Knoth.

Where it took place: Indiana State University and Indianapolis

What do you feel has been the impact of the project:

Due to the shortage of teachers who serve students who are blind or have low vision, the licensure program is increasing the number of personnel available to serve this low incidence disability.

Is this activity ongoing? Yes

**Evidence of Quality:**

The Blumberg Center addresses the following criteria for accreditation: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge and Engagement and Service. The Blumberg Center is instrumental in providing or facilitating numerous high-quality opportunities for faculty, staff, administration, and students to engage in continual professional development through inquiry, research, application, and discovery. In addition, the Center's community engagement and outreach services reach thousands of individuals both in West Central Indiana and across the state of Indiana. The Center's services reflect both diversity in that education professionals, family members, and community/business representatives are all touched by our services and depth with regards to various levels of service, from basic awareness to highly targeted and individualized technical assistance and support.

**Feedback:**

Please share any ideas you have on enhancing enrollment, meeting the challenges facing the university community, the NCA/HLC reaccreditation visit, etc?

As the nature of education changes, the Blumberg Center and ISU will be further called upon to expand the use of distance technologies and nontraditional learning opportunities to both recruit and retain students and professional development participants. Such technologies offer rich opportunities to provide differentiated experiences in a real-time manner which addresses the learner's specific needs at a given point in time. Such opportunities offer significant potential for ISU, and the Blumberg Center, to serve the state and the region.