

The Blumberg Bulletin



Indiana Deaf-Blind Services

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



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[BLUMBERG CENTER WEBSITE](#)

Director's Message

By Bruce Kulwicki, Director, Blumberg Center

Although we think of the holiday season as a time to be grateful and thankful for what we all have, it is important to keep in mind our good fortunes year 'round. I am personally grateful for the opportunity and privilege to be the director of the Blumberg Center at Indiana State University. After many years (34) in the field as a special education teacher and special education director, it is hard to believe how much room there is left for professional and personal growth. I have learned SO much from the welcoming and supportive faculty and staff at the Bayh College of education. The project directors for PASS, the Deaf-Blind Services Project, and the IEP Technical Assistance Center continue to amaze me with their knowledge, dedication, and work ethic. The winter edition of the Blumberg Bulletin will be brief, but filled with important information provided by each project director about what is going on with our innovative programs.

Before we get to the reports from our project directors, I want to take a moment to welcome Ms. Kiara Shapuraz to our team! She is our new Budget Operations Specialist and has proven to be a key component to our success. Jenifer Pollom, in the meantime, has replaced the departed Roxanne Toner as our Office Manager and Budget Operations Specialist. Jenifer is handling her new duties as well as training Kiara on the ins and outs of the Blumberg Center. Once again I am reminded of how grateful I am to be surrounded by staff that shares the core values of the Blumberg Center. What a great place!

Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project

By Lisa Poff, Indiana Deaf-Blind Project Director

The Deaf-Blind Project started spring sessions for the VIISA training program for the third cohort of early intervention providers serving children who are deaf-blind. This training is a hybrid training with zoom sessions and homework assignments in-between 2 two-day onsite sessions. The ten participants learn intervention strategies and about materials appropriate for use with these children in all areas of development and programming. The training program wraps up in early March with the final onsite session in Indianapolis.

Three family scholarships have been awarded to assist families of students with CHARGE Syndrome to attend the 2023 CHARGE Syndrome Conference in July.

PASS Project

By Jenni Mesanovic, PASS Project Director

Winter, 2023
Issue #2

As of December 2022, we have had 28 students complete the VI Licensure program. We currently have 26 students enrolled in the VI Licensure program. We have had 17 students complete the DHH Licensure program. We currently have 22 students enrolled in the DHH Licensure program.

At the end of February we will host our first Indiana Conference on Deaf Education (IN CoDE). We had hoped to host 50 teachers from around the state and are almost maxed out at 100 participants.

We look forward to hosting Dr. Therese Wilkomm in April for “Discovering the Joys of Assistive Technology Making”. A 2 day, hands on make and take workshop of projects

IEP Technical Assistance Center, Jolly Piersall, Project Director

Training

The IEP TA Center is a trusted choice for professional learning. Our newly published training schedule offers a robust listing of trainings covering an array of topics, delivered in a variety of locations and formats, and presented at no cost to Indiana educators. In addition to Universal trainings provided regionally by the IEP TA Center’s staff and collaborative partners, the center offers a statewide conference, Elevating Education: Improving Outcomes for All, featuring national and state experts presenting on the most critical and timely topics in education today. Access our Training Catalog and Save the Dates – November 28 & 29 – for the statewide conference.

Technical Assistance

The IEP TA Center provides Universal, Targeted and Intensive Technical Assistance (TA) to schools or districts designated by the Indiana Department of Education as well as those who directly request support. This quarter the IEP TA Center has responded to 184 requests from 116 cooperatives/corporations. We would like to take this moment to highlight the work of Adams-Wells Special Services Cooperative. The IEP TA Center has worked alongside district and school leaders to examine and strengthen supports for students with disabilities. This extensive work has included program audits, on site visits, IEP reviews, review of policies and procedures, focus groups, and training on a variety of topics.

Facilitated IEP Services

The IEP TA Center offers Facilitated IEP (FIEP) services, a unique free service to Indiana schools and parents where a trained impartial facilitator will guide the case conference committee through the IEP process to ensure all members of the committee are included, questions are answered, and a collaborative team is built to determine services and supports that will allow the student to meet his or her potential. This quarter, the IEP TA Center responded to 15 requests representing 11 corporations. The IEP TA Center supports educators and families to develop a plan that best meets the needs of the student. A celebration is warranted each time this goal is achieved!



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