

Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Administrative Annual Report

Blumberg Center

Year in Review

Achievements

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)

Experiential Learning Opportunities for ISU Students. The Blumberg Center has greatly exceeded its 2005-2006 annual goal to involve at least 30 ISU students from 4 COE departments. To date 242 students, representing the 4 departments of Communication Disorders, Educational and School Psychology, Counseling Psychology, and Elementary, Early Childhood and Special Education, have participated in a variety of activities sponsored by the Center. Community Outreach. The Center continues to provide training programs to educators in West Central Indiana and across the state. Over the last year, Blumberg Center staff and consultants conducted trainings and presentations reaching a total of 3,292 people in Indiana. Our trainings are designed to support local capacity building for sustained implementation by incorporating initial training, full-staff inservices, coaching, and technical assistance to public school personnel, pre-service programs, and agency personnel working with some of the most challenging students in public schools. Development of a New Project to Support Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Karen Goehl directs a new project titled the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Project, which is funded by the Indiana Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Learners. The focus of the project is to provide inservice training for Indiana's teachers who serve students who are deaf or hard of hearing. During this first year, needs assessment data has been collected to plan future training activities and project staff are working on a conference committee to plan the 2006 Deaf Educator's and Educational Interpreters Conference. Another role of the project is to work with the Educational Interpreter's Task Force to develop a process for qualifying educational interpreters in educational settings as well as to develop a training protocol for educational interpreters. Supplying Indiana's Teachers for Students with Visual Impairments. Project Vision, part of the Connections Grant, awarded by the Indiana Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Learners supports an Indiana State University/Ball State University joint graduate licensure program to train Indiana teachers to work with students who are blind or have low vision. The program consists of five courses plus a practicum experience. By 2007, thirty-five teachers will have completed the licensure program and be available to serve students who are blind or visually impaired in either public schools across Indiana or at the Indiana School for the Blind. Through a sub-contract with the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Project Vision also offers a certification program to train Orientation and Mobility Specialists. The twelve students who began the program in 2004 recently completed their coursework and will continue to work on completing their Supervised Fieldwork and Internship. The outcome of this effort will be to increase the number of O&M Specialists available to work in educational settings. Karen Goehl is the project director. Supporting Statewide Efforts Related to Implementation of a Response to Intervention Model. Recent federal legislation in the form of No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act emphasizes the importance of systematic models which involve a continuum of services for prevention and intervention. The Blumberg Center has been active in supporting statewide efforts to move toward

such tiered models of prevention and intervention services. Blumberg Center Director, Dr. Leah Nellis, has conducted six trainings/presentations on Response to Intervention to special education administrators statewide, local educational teams, and various professional organizations and served on multiple statewide task forces. New Topical Series Offered for ISU and Local Community. The Blumberg Center initiated a new topical series that was open to faculty/staff/students at ISU, local school district personnel, and members of the community. Six topical sessions were held with 193 individuals in attendance. Participants included 11 ISU faculty, 97 ISU students, and 85 representations from the local community including Vigo County School District staff, ISU staff, and family members. Collaborations to Promote Disability Awareness. The Blumberg Center collaborated to promote disability awareness during Disability Awareness Month in March. Marlene Lu, Project Secretary at the Center, lead the efforts to collaborate with the City of Terre Haute, Vigo County, HBO Films, Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation, Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center, Inc. and various offices/departments at ISU, including the Cunningham Memorial Library, Communications & Marketing, Office of President, Public Safety, Recreational Sports, Recreation and Sport Management, Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, to coordinate a month's worth of activities. Family Learning Weekend. The Center's Indiana Deafblind Services Project sponsored a Family Learning Weekend on October 21-23, 2005 at Bradford Woods in Martinsville, Indiana. The presenters for the weekend included Barbara Purvis, Kansas City, KS, Larry Schaaf from the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, and Lisa Poff from the Indiana Deafblind Services Project. The training focus for the weekend was Person-Centered-Planning for children and youth who are deafblind. Approximately 57 people participated in a variety of weekend activities. Grants funded and services increased. The Blumberg Center received \$1,222,188 state and federal grants and contracts during 2005-06. 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. The Indirect Funds from these grants totaled \$67,271 in indirect costs that also benefit ISU and the College of Education in a number of ways.

Enrollment

What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?

The Center's grant-funded Project Vision, which is an Indiana State University/Ball State University joint graduate licensure program to train Indiana teachers to work with students who are blind or have low vision, consists of five courses plus a practicum experience. To date, four cohorts have either completed or will complete the coursework during this summer or during the summer of 2007 to result in thirty-five teachers who will have completed the licensure program by 2007. Additionally through interactions across the state, Center staff share information about COE programs and courses.

Action Steps

Do you have any further progress you would like to report?

Action Step #1: One graduate student (EPSY) has collected dissertation data and is the process of beginning analysis. A report was completed by Dr. Eric Hampton on Focus Group Interviews of CPS for GEI teams. An article on Creative Problem Solving for General Education Intervention was published in the journal Remedial and Special Education. The research and evaluation team has continued work on several fronts with additional goals identified for the upcoming year and multiple graduate students interested in involvement. Action Step #2: Events conducted this year for experiential learning opportunities for students and faculty were expanded and efforts were made to include local school district personnel as well as family members. Across these activities, a total of 396 individuals (including faculty and students) were involved. Examples include a topical series; 3,

one-day CPS for GEI training programs at ISU; and the Family Learning Weekend. Action Step #3: The BC Discussion Group continued to meet during 2005-06 and initiated steps to engage an increased number of faculty as well as students in the discussion and planning of a potential interdisciplinary reading program clinic or program. Plans are in place to continue the Discussion Group into the 2006-07 year.

Assessment

What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year? What changes did you make based on those assessments?

Two mechanisms by which the Blumberg Center evaluates quality or effectiveness are: 1. Goal Attainment Scaling for each goal and sub-goal. Interim evaluation of 05-06 goals indicated performance at or above expected levels on all subscales. For 06-07 goals, changes were made to the scales to reflect organizational changes in the COE and to emphasize the nature of activities in which faculty/students were involved to focus on meaningful and experiential opportunities. 2. Evaluations are conducted during each of the Center's trainings and activities. Following trainings, the training team reviews evaluation feedback to debrief and identify areas in need of improvement. This reflective practice is then utilized to make changes for future trainings, identify need for new areas of development, and continued professional/skill development of staff.

Budget

As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?

As budget challenges continue on campus and across the nation, the Center will explore avenues for providing services and technical assistance to educators and family members using more cost-effective means. For example, the use of technology and distance-education will be integrated into currently funded projects as appropriate and new projects/funding will be sought to support the development of technology-based resources (ie. webinars) that are more cost-effective and have a broader geographical reach. Additionally, the Center will explore avenues for increasing funding and revenue.

Strategic Initiatives

Development Activities

What role might your unit play during the silent phase of the comprehensive fundraising campaign?

The Blumberg Center will assist the College of Education and the development officer in identifying potential donors and sources of support for the comprehensive campaign. Through extensive community service, the Blumberg Center contributes to both the University mission and the College of Education mission to serve all learners and in turn helps to build the case for the comprehensive campaign.

Future Goals

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Have you considered any action steps your department could make to enhance Indiana State University's reputation as a University of choice? If so, please indicate what you are planning to do and tell us which area of planning your steps fall under.

Using a collaborative process, the Blumberg Center staff and Steering Council have developed four goals for the 2006-07 year. The goals are: (CE) Improve and Increase the ways the Center responds to Community Needs. This goal involves identifying community representatives at both the state and local level to serve in an advisory function to the Center to identify community needs and Blumberg Center's response. This activity will increase both ISU's and the Center's reputation as contributors to the local, regional, and state communities. (EL,ED) Enhance and Support BC Projects through Multidisciplinary Research Teams and Programs. Creating multidisciplinary research teams involving Center staff, faculty, and students will provide experiential learning opportunities for students in both the service delivery and research fields related to education. Students will leave their training programs with increased applied skills and experiences. Additionally, enhanced empirical support for the Center's services will result in increased dissemination of results supporting ISU's reputation as an eminent university in the state and beyond. (ED, CE, EL) Increase the Diversity of BC Funding. Efforts will be made to increase the Center's funding through collaborative projects and grants. Such increased funding has the potential to provide for more experiential learning and community engagement opportunities as well as supporting the development of eminent programs. (ED, CE, EL) Increase the Use of Technology. Actions will be taken to increase the use of technology in the Center's problem solving processes, delivery of services, and dissemination of resources. An increased use of technology in the educational problem solving process is an emerging field and would significantly contribute to current state and national initiatives. Additionally, the use of technology supports increasing the Center's and ISU's reputation in a larger geographical area.