From LEA Para to Certified Special Education Teacher: A SDE/LEA/IHE Partnership

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NASDSE FIRST NATIONAL SUMMIT ON PERSONNEL NEEDS
Dallas, TX ● May 15, 2013
Early Years of CREATE

- 400+ SC SpEd Tchrs. on permits in 2003
- Facing NCLB HQ mandate in 2006
- OEC initiated Year 1 of CREATE in 2003-04
- Mission to grow a HQ/HE work force in SC
- Scholarships awarded for course work
- Initially funded with IDEA dollars
- OTC added Title II funds in Year 3, 2005-06
- Permits virtually erased by Year 4, 2006-07
Recent Years of CREATE

- Focus now proactive; ‘growing our own’
- New target groups of potential SpEd Tchrs
- Add-on and initial certif. in all SpEd areas
- Participants sign Employment Agreement
- Expanded to include BCBAs and SLPs
- Ongoing research proves effectiveness
- Recognized nationally by NASDSE
CREATE: A True Collaborative

- Triad of SCDE, LEAs, and IHEs
- LEAs refer/co-sign Employment Agreement
- IHEs provide preparation/course work
- SCDE pays for tuition, textbooks, Praxis II
Eligible Participants

- Full-time employees; public/charter
- Instructional and non-instructional
- Priority groups:
  - SpEd Paras/Tchr. Assistants
  - GenEd Tchrs (career changers)
  - Long-term Subs
  - RIF Teachers
  - Office staff/Others
Certification Programs

- Add-on SpEd certification (all areas)
- Initial SpEd certification (bachelor’s & MAT)
- PACE-Emotional Disabilities
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Speech-Language Pathologist (master’s)
Program Completers
Nine-Year Total: 680
Program Completers
Paras v. Others

- 06-07: Paras 0, Others 52
- 07-08: Paras 6, Others 139 (Paras 5, Others 134)
- 08-09: Paras 30, Others 49 (Paras 13, Others 36)
- 09-10: Paras 13, Others 48 (Paras 11, Others 37)
- 10-11: Paras 11, Others 44 (Paras 9, Others 35)
- 11-12: Paras 9, Others 58 (Paras 5, Others 53)
All SC Counties Represented
75 of 82 School Districts
Projected Shortages

- Severe shortages of special educators persist in most states (American Association for Employment in Education, 2007; Higher Education Consortium in Special Education, n.d.)

- Employment in special education teaching is expected to increase by 17% by 2020 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012) due to growth of students with disabilities and teacher demand.
Major Challenge

Building capacity in higher-poverty areas of South Carolina where Paras have no access to IHEs
New for 2014

Distance MAT Program

- Priority candidate selection
- Mostly online courses
- Regional on-site courses
- LEA adjuncts for internships
Contact Information

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