Utah Establishes Paraeducator to Special Education Teacher Partnerships with IHEs and LEAs

Presented by
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NASDSE 1st National Summit on Personnel Needs
May 15, 2013
Dallas, TX
PIC Involvement

- Increase states’ capacity to create opportunities for LEAs to partner with community colleges and four year institutions of higher education (IHEs)

- Focus on paraeducator-to-teacher programs to increase accessibility to four year institutions for community members in high need areas of the state
Utah’s Process

- Created state leadership team
- Examined data & identified LEAs with high needs for licensed special education teachers and partnering IHEs
- Facilitated partnerships, created plans, provided continuous follow-up and monitoring
LEA – IHE Partnerships

State Leadership Team

Ogden Davis
WSU USU SLCC

Granite
U of U USU Westminster SLCC

Alpine Nebo
Provo
UVU SLCC BYU U of U USU

Canyons
U of U USU Westminster SLCC

Jordan
U of U USU Westminster SLCC
Sample LEA

Granite School District
- Located in Salt Lake City
- Largest in state
  - 62 elementary schools
  - 6 junior high schools
  - 8 high schools
  - Special schools
- 7500 employees
  - 945 Paraeducators
- 68,300 student
  - 4,400 Resource
  - 1,370 Self-contained

Paraeducator Survey

Surveyed paraeducators to find:

1. Interest in becoming a licensed special education teacher
2. Interest area in special ed
3. Current level of education
4. Currently enrolled in any college courses?
5. What barriers /fears they have
6. Other
# Paraeducator Survey Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currently enrolled in any college courses</th>
<th>19 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Current level of education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>65 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>13.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree</td>
<td>21 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master degree</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Special Education area of interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Interest</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mild/moderate</td>
<td>56 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>21 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>35 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Barriers/Worries/Needed support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers/Worries/Needed support</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer/Application process</td>
<td>6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid</td>
<td>37 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrance exam requirements</td>
<td>19 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University admissions</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All of the above</strong></td>
<td><strong>38 %</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partnership Outcomes

- Paraeducator Survey
- Paraeducator Appreciation/Celebration
- Onsite advisement
- Follow-up IHE information event
- Paraeducator websites
- “Pathways to Becoming a Special Educator” brochure for each IHE program

- Simplified Financial Aid Resource chart
- Seamless segue into IHE application and admission process
- Collaborative supports from LEAs for paraeducators in programs
State’s Support of Para to Teacher Partnerships

Funded an Inter-University Advisement Position to
• Recruit special educators statewide
• Refer potential special educators to local IHE programs
• Establish an Inter/multi university website to include comprehensive information describing each of the participating Utah IHE programs in special education teacher preparation [www.utahspedprograms.org](http://www.utahspedprograms.org)

Offered $50,000 to LEAs to “grow their own licensed special education teachers” through *Para to Teacher Partnerships* grants

Conducted statewide Supply & Demand Survey
OUTCOME DATA to March 2013

The chart below reports the
• number of paraeducators who have entered IHE Special Education preparation programs in Utah since our work with the PIC began in 2008-09
• number of IHEs and LEAs that participated in our partnership work
• documented number of events
• results of efforts of the Inter-University recruitment activities across IHEs/LEAs/PIC/USOE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of LEAs</th>
<th># of IHEs participating of 11 possible IHEs</th>
<th># of Para activities conducted e.g., survey, para appreciation/advisement event where IHEs were invited</th>
<th># of Paras referred via Inter-University advisement connections</th>
<th># of Paraeducators enrolled in special education licensure programs as result of PIC work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>102</td>
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Questions?

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