

Ensuring a Quality Education for Indiana's Students with Disabilities: Results from a DOE Grant

Jacqueline Harris, Taiping Ho, Larry Markle, Roger Wessel
Ball State University

The transition to college can be especially difficult for students with disabilities. Many students with disabilities come to college less prepared for the rigors of college (Maddus, 2005).

Purpose of Grant

A multi-faceted approach to fostering a smooth transition to college for students with disabilities.

- Faculty training on best practices in teaching students with disabilities;
- Resources to enhance the successful Faculty Mentorship Program;
- Additional Learning Center support and training for tutors;
- Outreach to Indiana secondary schools on the transition to college for students with disabilities.

Larry Markle, Director of Disability Services
– lmarkle@bsu.edu

Dr. Jacqueline Harris, Coordinator for Study Strategies and Writing, The Learning Center –
jroberts@bsu.edu



Dr. Taiping Ho, Professor of Criminal Justice & Criminology
– taipingho@bsu.edu

Dr. Roger Wessel, Associate Professor of Educational Studies – rwessel@bsu.edu

Faculty Training Series

Local and national experts will come to campus and train faculty and administrators on best practices and current research in teaching students with disabilities.

- Provide tips on teaching students with different disability types
- Introduce and give examples on how to include universal design in the classroom
- mentoring
- technology

Faculty Mentorship Program (FMP)

New SWDs are connected with a faculty member in the student's major or area of interest. The mentor and student meet on a regular basis. The mentor will:

- Provide tips on how to interact with professors
- Serve as a friend to help with transition questions
- Act as a resource person to help investigate the major and related career options
- Provide study tips for that major/department

Results of the FMP

Students who participated in the FMP during its first two years were more successful than students who chose not to participate.

- ✓ Higher Grade Point Averages
- ✓ More Credit Hours Earned
- ✓ Greater Usage of Campus Services
- ✓ Higher Retention Rates



Learning Center Support for SWDs

- Additional tutoring & study assistance for SWDs
- Training series for peer tutors on interacting and tutoring SWDs
- Graduate assistants working directly with students in the FMP

Outreach to K-12 Community in Indiana

- ★ Brochure on the transition to college for SWDs sent to each high school in Indiana
- ★ Presentations given to groups across Indiana specializing in transition