

## Networking Learning Communities for Students with Disabilities Through Global Collaboration

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### Objective

- To duplicate the PACE Program in countries around the world
- First meeting 2001
- The PACE Program at National-Louis University Skokie, Illinois, USA
- The Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw, Poland
- 2003 agreement signed opening the doors to collaboration
- Subsequent meetings with Special Education Instructors in South Korea

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### PACE Program

- A two- year post-secondary certificate program
- Offered by National College of Education (NCE) at National-Louis University (NLU)
- A program meeting the transitional needs of students with multiple learning disabilities.

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➤ PACE was created in 1986  
➤ A leading on- campus program in the U.S.  
➤ Integrates formal instruction in the areas of:  
    ➤ ACADEMICS  
    ➤ CAREER PREPARATION  
    ➤ LIFE SKILLS  
    ➤ SOCIALIZATION

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**PACE Philosophy**

➤ Based on the work of the late  
    Nicholas Hobbs, Ph.D  
➤ Ruven Feurestein, Israeli professor of  
    psychology  
➤ Janus Korschack

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➤ 2001 of first presentation at University of  
    Warsaw at the International Assoc. of Special  
    Education (IASSEC)  
➤ A need was identified there to share and  
    duplicate the concepts of the PACE Program  
➤ Partnership was developed to replicate the  
    PACE Program in Poland

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## Method

- › Interns from partner universities spend an academic year working at the PACE Program
- › Theory and practice are taken back to their home university
- › Subsequent visits to Poland and South Korea by PACE staff are planned
- › The core needs of students with multiple learning disabilities crosses all cultures

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## Methods

- › Goal: Recreating the PACE Program in Poland & South Korea
- › By:
  - › TEACHING
  - › INTERNSHIPS
  - › SHARING OF IDEAS

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## INTERNSHIPS

- › Need to learn all areas of the program
- › Experience by doing
- › Live in the residence hall with student
- › Rotate through all areas of the program:
  - › ACADEMICS - observe classes
  - › VOCATIONAL TRAINING - field work instructor
  - › LIFE SKILLS - instruct students in the residence hall
  - › SOCIALIZATION - lead clubs, participate in student activities

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## Results

- Have now had three interns from Poland and 2 interns from South Korea
- The interns have returned home to begin teach their experience to their colleagues
- The has been a sharing of:
  - IDEAS
  - TEACHING STRATEGIES
  - BEST PRACTICES
  - CULTRAL DIFFERENCES

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## Educational Importance

- Sharing of ideas at International Conferences
- Ability to offer seminar classes on Transition Services
- Collaborate in research on young adults with disabilities

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- Collaboration and Education are key elements for the continued growth of all students.
- It is important to “Close the Gaps” around the world and work together for the sake of the student

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