

# Enabling Faculty Members to Effectively Mentor and Teach Students with Disabilities

## Ensuring a Quality Education for Indiana's Students with Disabilities

Office of Postsecondary Education Project # P333A080021-09



*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).*

## Ball State University's Integrated Approach in Serving Students with Disabilities (SWDs)

Ensuring a Quality Education for Indiana's Students with Disabilities is furthering Ball State's commitment to a quality education for students with disabilities by implementing programs to assist faculty and staff that teach and serve students with disabilities; providing assistance to students through having a faculty mentor and additional assistance through the Learning Center; and by providing materials to secondary schools on the transition to college for students with disabilities. The project consists of four distinct components:



BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY.

### Faculty Mentorship Program for SWDs

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

#### Results

- Higher GPAs
- More credit hours earned
- Higher retention rates

### Learning Center Support for SWDs

#### Results

- Additional tutoring & study assistance for SWDs
- Trained peer tutors on interacting and tutoring SWDs



### Educational Development for Faculty and Staff

Local and national experts help campus educators understand 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
- How to mentor SWDs

#### Results

- Better informed faculty and staff
- Increased comfort levels of working with SWDs
- Higher success rate for SWDs

### Outreach to Indiana's K-12 Community

#### Results

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

### Office of Disabled Student Development

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