



Advancing Community College Efforts in
Paraprofessional Training Project

ACCEPT PROJECT

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History and Overview

- ▶ Support
 - U. S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Cooperative Agreement
- ▶ Program
 - Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities (CFDA 84.325) Program
- ▶ Priority
 - Paraprofessional Preservice Program Improvement Grants (CFDA No. 84.325N)

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History and Overview

▶ Focus Area

- Certificate or associate degree programs at institutions of higher education that currently prepare EI, ECSE, or ECE paraprofessionals to serve children ages birth through five.

▶ Objectives

- Infuse research-based and recommended special education content, instruction, and practices into coursework and meaningful community-based practicum in existing associate's degree program in early childhood education.
- Enhance students' understanding and confidence in working with children with varying abilities and needs.
- Advance the preparation, educational attainment, and retention of the early childhood workforce in North Carolina.

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Purpose

- ▶ To help address state-identified needs for highly qualified personnel--in special education, related services, early intervention, and regular education--to work with infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.
- ▶ To ensure that those personnel have the necessary skills and knowledge, derived from practices that have been determined, through scientifically-based research and experience, to be successful in serving those children.

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Process

- ▶ Collaborative Course Infusion
 - Identify course, content partner, and project “point person”
 - Initiate collaborative professional development
 - Engage in collaborative progress monitoring and followup
 - Prepare and post course content matrix
- ▶ Refine, Revisit, and Renew
 - Conduct ongoing review and collaboration
 - Obtain continuous collaborator and stakeholder feedback
 - Maintain collaboration and content currency

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Products

- ▶ Searchable Database
- ▶ Research-to-Practice Briefs
- ▶ Course Content Matrices
- ▶ Annual Performance Report Indicators
 - Surveys
 - Student
 - Faculty
 - Focus Groups
 - Student
 - Faculty
 - Employer
 - Parent
- ▶ Project Website [www.acceptproject.org]