



## **Advancing Community College Efforts in Paraprofessional Training (ACCEPT) Project**

### **Professional Development Evaluation Summary**

**November 1, 2012**

Faculty in the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree program in Early Childhood Education at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) are currently collaborating with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC Charlotte) ACCEPT Project to infuse special education content, instruction, and practices into existing coursework. A key component of the project is ongoing collaborative professional development (PD). This is an evaluation summary of a three-hour professional development session provided by members of the ACCEPT Project on November 1, 2012.

#### **Participants**

Participants ( $n = 9$ ) represented the CPCC Early Childhood Program Coordinator and faculty members teaching courses targeted for infusion during the fall semester. The ACCEPT Project staff included Kate Algozzine, Project Coordinator and Meeting Facilitator; Vivian Correa, Co-Principal Investigator; and, Katie Swart, Graduate Research Assistant.

#### **Procedure**

The PD consisted of training and exploration of SpecialQuest, The IRIS Center, and CONNECT Module 7. SpecialQuest Birth–Five focuses on inclusion for children with disabilities ages birth through five and their families, particularly those in child care, early intervention, early childhood special education, and other related programs; it also includes a web-based multimedia training library with facilitator guides, planning worksheets, training scripts, handouts, and videos. The IRIS Center offers free online special education resources and materials including validated instructional strategies, research-to-practice strategies, and best-practice strategies for working with students with disabilities. CONNECT Module 7 describes effective tiered instruction related to social and academic learning for use with young children in early care and education programs.

Following the session, a 15-item online evaluation was distributed using *SurveyShare*. The content focused on perceptions of selected aspects of the professional development presentation (e.g., The training was well organized. The training materials were current.) and the presenters (e.g., The trainers were knowledgeable. The trainers communicated clearly and effectively.) as well as three general impressions (What did you like best about the training? What did you like least about the training? What, if any, improvements would you suggest?). Most of the response options were (a) Strongly Disagree [SD], (b) Disagree [D], (c) Agree [A], and (d) Strongly Agree [SA]; however, one question (i.e., How would you rate this training overall?) included ratings of (a) Poor, (b) Unsatisfactory, (c) Satisfactory, and (d) Excellent. Perceptions of positive and negative aspects of the professional development session and suggested improvements were solicited with open-ended questions (see Table 1). The internal consistency reliability (Cronbach's  $\alpha$ ) for the 11 general perception items was .92.

## Professional Development Evaluation Summary

### Results

The summary in Table 1 reflects high participant satisfaction with regard to the professional development provided (i.e., all responses were “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” and the average ratings for each item were above 3.0 [Range = 3.33-3.89] on the 4-point scale). Ratings ( $M = 3.37$ ,  $SD = 0.35$ ) for items focused on training (1-3) were lower than those ( $M = 3.71$ ,  $SD = 0.40$ ) focused on the trainers (4-9). Participants also rated the skill/knowledge gained and their ability to apply what they learned positively ( $M = 3.67$ ,  $SD = 0.50$ ). Most of the participants (78%) rated the overall training as “Excellent.” When asked what they liked best about the training, the four open-ended responses focused on the practical value of the PD activities. Only one response was received with regard to what the participants liked least (i.e., too little time available for practical application). Participants did not suggest improvements for future professional development.

### Lesson Learned

Overall, results reflect generally positive participant impressions of the professional development session. Ratings and responses to open-ended questions suggested that depth of the practical content was of more interest than breadth to this group of professionals. The ACCEPT Project staff will use these outcomes to plan and organize for upcoming professional development opportunities.

Recommended citation: ACCEPT Project. (2012). *Professional development evaluation summary*.

Retrieved from [www.acceptproject.org](http://www.acceptproject.org)

## Professional Development Evaluation Summary

Table 1  
Summary of Professional Development Survey Responses

Item	Rating					M	SD
	SD	D	A	SA			
1. The training was well organized.	0%	0%	67%	33%		3.33	0.50
2. The training materials were current.	0%	0%	56%	44%		3.44	0.53
3. The training activities were appropriate.	0%	0%	67%	33%		3.33	0.50
Training						3.37	0.35
4. The trainers were knowledgeable.	0%	0%	38%	62%		3.63	0.52
5. The trainers communicated clearly and effectively.	0%	0%	22%	78%		3.78	0.44
6. The trainers were available for consultation during and after the training time.	0%	0%	33%	67%		3.67	0.50
7. The trainers provided ample opportunities for participants for participants to ask questions.	0%	0%	22%	78%		3.78	0.44
8. The trainers answered questions to my satisfaction.	0%	0%	33%	67%		3.67	0.50
9. The trainers treated participants with respect.	0%	0%	11%	89%		3.89	0.33
Training						3.71	0.40
10. My skills/knowledge increased as a result of the training.	0%	0%	33%	67%		3.67	0.50
11. I will be able to apply what I have learned to my job.	0%	0%	33%	67%		3.67	0.50
	Rating						
	Poor	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Excellent		M	SD
How would you rate this training overall?	0%	0%	22%	78%		3.78	0.44
What did you like best about the training?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Getting to work on course calendars"</li> <li>▪ "Information was in writing so we can review later. Had the opportunity to talk with my faculty liaison at the meeting."</li> <li>▪ "The opportunity to review resources was valuable."</li> <li>▪ "The time that was given for us to explore the resources."</li> </ul>						
What did you like least about the training?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "It seemed rushed at times and I didn't always feel like I was able to review what was in front of me before we moved on to something else."</li> </ul>						
What, if any, improvements would you suggest?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "None at this time."</li> </ul>						