

Current Grants and Ongoing Projects

Grant	Faculty	Synopsis
Co-teaching in middle school mathematics classrooms	Wienke Davis*	This special initiative is to provide professional development to a group of teachers who are providing services to students in inclusive environments. The effort hopes to improve the practice of co-teaching teams to directly impact students with mild disabilities.
Development of an Effective Training Model for Improving Knowledge and Skills of Teachers Working with Students with Disabilities in Beijing, China	Martin Bai Hu*	The purpose of this project in year 1 is to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate an effective training model for improving the knowledge and skills of teachers who work with students with disabilities in China. The project in year 2 includes surveying and conducting focus groups of teachers and families in Orange County Public Schools, Orlando, Florida and continuing to conduct partnership activities with Beijing Normal University and United Teachers College. Year 3 will provide additional professional development activities in Beijing, China and Orlando, Florida.
FITS (OSEP funded) Family Infant Toddler Developmental Specialists (F)	Cross Hartle	Prepares personnel involved in Part C programs to receive endorsement for Medicaid reimbursement. The grant involves 6 courses one of which is taught by the school of nursing focusing on working with children birth to five with disabilities.
The “Learning Stream” (L)	Dieker	Focuses on the development of a process to create video for teacher education that impacts student learning in math, science and reading.
National Urban Special Education Leadership Initiative: A Model (N)	Martin	This effort is designed to address the critical gaps between the traditional preparation of urban special education mid-level administrators and the skills, knowledge, and dispositions needed for full implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) of 2004.
PACE Paraprofessional Grant (P)	Cross Platt	Designed to help paraprofessionals become certified special education teachers
PDP (State funded) Professional Development Partnership (P)	Cross	This grant supports the recruitment and retention of special education personnel in the 7 county UCF area. One of our initiatives has been the support of a cohort of paraprofessionals to become teachers. Another focus has been to support secondary special education teachers in becoming highly qualified through providing opportunities for them to complete the reading endorsement program. This project is in its 10th year.
PIPS Project (OSEP funded) (P)	Cross Young *	Grant focuses on preparing teachers of young children with disabilities to work in inclusive settings. Teachers will receive their PK disabilities endorsement as a result

		of this project.
Preparing Diverse Special Educators Using Alternative Course Delivery Modes and Mentoring (P)	Wienke Hines	This innovative program offers out-of-field ESE teachers quality online instruction combined with live meeting opportunities through state funded training and support of on-site mentors.
Preparing Highly Qualified Personnel to Serve Students with Severe/Profound Disabilities (P)	Wienke	The purpose of this project is to prepare highly qualified educators to work with students with severe/low incidence disabilities with emphasis on recruitment of individuals from underrepresented populations.
Project ASD – Preparing teachers to work with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (P)	Wienke Pearl	Designed to increase the number, qualifications and diversity of special education teachers prepared to work with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
Project CENTRAL (P)	Little	The purpose of this project is to provide professional development, products, research, and resources to ensure quality outcomes for all students in Florida, including students with disabilities.
Project ESTEP (P)	Wienke	Project focuses on bringing individuals from backgrounds outside education into the special education workforce.
Project LEAD (P)	Wienke Dieker	A doctoral program designed to prepare highly competent special education leadership personnel, from culturally and linguistically diverse populations, for university faculty positions or for service in training positions in agencies or school systems.
Project Nuestros Niños/Our Children (P)	Blanes	Works with Latino Families who have children attending pre-school.
Project STARS (P)	Blanes Whitby*	Project STARS (Students, Teaching, Assessment, Recruitment, and Strategies) is designed as a triad of interaction and collaboration between a university, public schools, and families of children with special needs. STARS is a multifaceted educational project focused on Students, Teaching, Assessment, Recruitment, and Strategies through research, service, and partnership opportunities.
SIG (state funded) State Improvement Grant- (S)	Cross	This grant is part of the central Florida PDP and has focused on the retention of special education teachers in a 7 county area through aligning our coursework with National Professional Board standards and completion of a master’s degree.
STAR (S)	Dieker	The Virtual STAR Classroom Simulator will provide dynamic interactive trainer tools that can trigger and direct the virtual class behavior, providing for the most appropriate situations for learning.

TATS – Technical Assistance Training System (T)	Cross	Designed to develop a coordinated technical assistance and training system to respond to district needs for technical support in providing services to pre-kindergartners with disabilities and their families.
Toni Jennings Clinic (T)	Dieker	The goal of this project is to create an interdisciplinary partnership between doctoral students in mathematics, science, and exceptional education by providing tutoring services to middle and high school students in the Toni Jennings Exceptional Education Clinic.
Washington Internships (W)	Wienke	Policy Internships in Washington, DC will be available at a variety of sites during the second or third summer of the program.
Water’s Journey through the Everglades (W)	Smith Hughes Cavendish Dieker	Water’s Journey through the Everglades uses emerging augmented reality technology and dynamic real-world data to allow learners to extend the breadth, depth, and appeal of informal science exhibit experiences in the new EcoDiscovery Wing at the Museum of Discovery and Science in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

* Doctoral Students involved in procuring funding and directing the project.