

## UNIT REPORT

## Special Ed & Child Dev - Annual Highlights Report

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### SPCD Department Highlights 2021-22

Start: 07/01/2021

End: 06/30/2022

Providing Department: Special Ed &amp; Child Dev

Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above:: Faculty Success (Publications, grants, awards)  
New Student Support Programs

#### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: Goal #1:

The Department of Special Education and Child Development had multiple grants in 2021 to support students through the completion of their degree programs:

**Pennington, R., Spooner, F., & Walker, V. L.** (2021). *Preparing scholars in the area of extensive support needs*. Submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education, Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities—Preparation of Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services Leadership Personnel Competition, CFDA #84.325D. [Funded, \$1,236,790]

**Pennington, R., Mazzotti, V. L., & Beach, K. D.** (2019). *UNC Charlotte's Ph.D. program in special education: 2020-2025*. Developed and submitted to United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs: Preparation of Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services Leadership Personnel [Co-PI, Funded; H325D190013, CFDA Number: 84.325D, 09/30/19, \$1,230,555].

**Wood, C. L., & Lo, Y.-y.** (2017). *UNC Charlotte's Ph.D. program in special education with a specialty in multi-tiered interventions*. OSERS, U.S. Department of Education, Preparation of Leadership Personnel (funded for 5 years, **01/01/2018-12/31/2022**, total \$1,249,984).

**Anderson, K., & Foxx, S.** (2017). *Project Intensive Needs Teacher and Counselor Training (INTACT)*. Source: Interdisciplinary Preparation in Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services for Personnel Serving Children with Disabilities Who Have High-Intensity Needs (CFD A 84.325K), Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Award: \$1,199,455.00. Role Co-PI/Project Director.

Faculty continued projects on other grants that supported doctoral students as Graduate Assistants:

**Mazzotti, V. L. (2020).** *Student-Centered Transitions Network in Texas*. Subcontract with Houston State University. [PI, Funded from 10/01/20-08/31/21, \$50,000]

Fowler, C.H., Unruh, D. K., Morningstar, M. E., MaGee, C., Diehl, M. P., Luecking, R., Fabian, E., **Mazzotti, V. L.**, McGuire-Kuletz., M., Rowe, D. A., & Lattin, D. (2020). *National Technical Assistance Center on Transition for Students and Youth with Disabilities*. OSERS, US-DOE, Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities. [PI; CFDA 84.326E, Funded, H326E200003, 10/01/20, funded annually at \$4,000,000 across 5 years, total \$20,000,000.

Donehower, C., Vasquez, T., & **Pennington, R.** (2020). Project social code: Leveraging robotics and STEM environments to teach social skills at the elementary level. Source OSEP (Stepping up technology implementation). Award 2,259,231 Role, Co-PI

Garet, M., **Mazzotti, V. L.**, Heppen, J., Miller, T., & Fowler, C. H. (2019). *NCEE: Evaluation of Transition Supports for Youth with Disabilities*. United States Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences, National Center for Educational Evaluation. [Co-PI, Funded, Solicitation # 919900-19-R-0022, 09/27/19, Sub-contract budget: \$1,470,204).

**Mazzotti, V. L.** (2019). *Student-Centered Transitions Network in Texas*. Subcontract with Houston State University. [PI, Funded from 07/01/19-08/31/20, \$110,683]

Shogren, K., **Mazzotti, V. L.**, & Little, T. (2018). *Promoting Self-Determination for Students with Disabilities: Goal-Setting Challenge App*. Developed and submitted to the United States Department of Education Institute for Education Sciences: Special Education Research Grants Goal 2 Development & Innovation Proposal. [Co-PI, Funded 07/01/18, R324A180012; CFDA Number: 84.324A, \$1,400,000]

#### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: Goal #2:

Faculty in the Department of Special Education and Child Development published 72 journal articles, book chapters, and books in 2021. Twenty-five of 72 (34.7%) publications included students as co-authors. Department Faculty secured over \$1.2 in external grant funding and over \$645,000 in internal or local grants/contracts. Three faculty members received awards in 2021: Dr. Kristen Beach (Sustained Service to Public Schools, Cato College of Education, UNC Charlotte, President's Service Award, Division for Learning Disabilities, Council for Exceptional Children), Dr. Virginia Walker (Early Career Researcher Award, TASH), and Mrs. Micki Crowder (Staff of the Year Award, Cato College of Education, UNC Charlotte).

#### **Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above::**

Student Success (Retention, graduation, high impact experiences, publications, scholarships, awards)

Faculty Success (Publications, grants, awards)

#### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNITS: Goal #3:**

Faculty members (Beach and Gesel) continued their 6th year of Summer Reading Camp, a partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Dr. Samantha Gesel secured a grant from the Belk Foundation to provide after-school tutoring to 1st and 2nd Graders at Hornets Nest Elementary in CMS. This partnership with Hornets Nest Elementary has provided our Junior-Year Special Education Majors a field-experience site throughout the school year to work with early elementary students and gain knowledge and skill in early reading intervention and assessment.

**Types of Accomplishments Discussed Above::** External Partnerships (internships, joint ventures, community engagement)

Faculty Success (Publications, grants, awards)

External Public Relations/Outreach

#### **Examples of Data-Based Improvements :**

As Department Chair I used the following data sources for the purposes of improvement:

- Program-completer Focus Groups. In early 2022, MEd/MAT Program Directors Lo and Smith led focus groups with recent graduates and current faculty to receive feedback and plan for program goals.
- College of Education Data Dashboard from the Office of Assessment and Accreditation
- Office of Institutional Research, Fact Book Dashboards
- Review enrollment data for each program to determine recruitment needs and long-term program viability
- Review foundations and licensure pass rates to determine program support
- Review SLO data – review each program with faculty and discuss goals for coming year
- Faculty teaching evaluations - Review teaching evaluations to determine faculty supports (e.g., faculty mentorship).

#### **Other Major Accomplishments: :**

As part of UNC Charlotte's "Shaping What's Next" Strategic Plan, the university's Top-Tier Research Commission (R1 Commission) issued a call for nominations from research clusters across the university. The commission reviewed 82 submissions and narrowed the pool to 17 finalists. Four research teams from the department (Transition, Severe Disabilities, Reading, Gifted Education) submitted nominations. The commission selected two groups (Transition and Severe Disabilities) from our department and combined them into one area of "Unique Distinction" labeled *Special and Exceptional Education*. This recognition is a great honor to our department and a testament to the impactful research in special education, transition, reading intervention, gifted education, and child and family development research generated by our department faculty.

#### **Diversity Initiatives:**

In summer 2021 the Department Chair recruited a group of department faculty and assigned Dr. Gloria Campbell-Whatley to lead a newly established SPCD DEI committee. The purpose of this committee is to promote and evaluate department efforts around justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion as a major focus of the department strategic plan. This committee worked with the Department Chair throughout the year to plan a faculty self-assessment and syllabi evaluation. All faculty will participate in Dr. Campbell-Whatley's Inclusion Infusion Modules over the next two years. The SPCD DEI committee will be ongoing with its membership elected by the faculty each year.

Several faculty participated in college-wide book discussion groups related to justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion and participated in DEI events throughout the year.

**Supporting Documentation:** Attached Files

[SPCD Jan 2021 Dec 2021.pdf](#)