

# J.E.S.S.E. Newsletter

## May 2017



### ***Special Education Professionals Improving Practices (SEPIP)***

The **Indiana IEP Resource Center** is committed to assisting local districts and special education professionals improve their own practices related to educational evaluations and IEP development. High quality professional practices lead to improved services and instruction for students with disabilities and provide the best opportunities for the achievement of student goals and outcomes.

The **Special Education Professionals Improving Practices (SEPIP)** series is designed for staff members who work together on a regular basis to complete evaluations and write/implement IEPs. SEPIP events and activities will occur during the 2017-2018 school year with optional additional opportunities during subsequent years. Additional information and applications can be accessed by following the link - [www.indianaieprc.org/sepipapply](http://www.indianaieprc.org/sepipapply). Applications for participation are due June 15, 2017. This is a great PD opportunity!

### **MTSS - Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

Inclusive practices can benefit more than students with disabilities. This training opportunity will address a continuum of research-based, system-wide practices to meet the academic and behavior needs of ALL students. Schoolwide approaches (e.g., multi-tiered instructional strategies) that integrate academic and behavior supports will be highlighted. Training dates: **June 16th or June 21st**. \$75 per person.

<https://www.indianaieprc.org/images/Institutes/2017SummerInstitute.pdf>

### **What Are Your Professional Development Needs?**

Looking forward to the 2017-18 school year, please contact Rob or Linda at the JESSE Office for your professional development needs. PD can be delivered in many formats and can address several topics:

- Large groups (whole staff) - PD days, Staff Meetings, etc.
- Small groups - special educators and/or general educators
- Before, during, or after school hours
- At your school or at JESSE (depending on group sizes)
- Collaborative meetings among multiple schools/corporations
- Various training topics: teaching/instructional methods, social-behavioral, communication, autism/sensory, transition/vocational, vision/hearing impairments, IEP development, FBA/BIP development, data collection methods, goal writing, differentiation, co-teaching, SDI, UDL, MTSS, and plenty more...

### **PD - What does the research say?**

This is not just about providing professional development, but about providing effective professional development. Availability alone is not an issue. In fact, a recent study found that while 90 percent of teachers reported participating in professional development, most of those teachers also reported that it was totally

useless (Darling-Hammond et al, 2009). Thus, the real issue isn't that teachers aren't provided professional development, but that the typical offerings are ineffective at changing teachers' practice or student learning. We often ask questions about how students learn, but not often about how teachers learn. In this high-stakes era of higher standards and teacher evaluations based in part on student achievement, professional development has to have a laser-light focus on one thing— student learning. However, at present, most professional development misses the mark. One-time workshops are the most prevalent model for delivering professional development. Yet, workshops have an abysmal track record for changing teacher practice and student achievement. (Yoon et al, 2007).

[READ MORE](#) ▶

## Vocational Job Experiences at Ancilla College

JESSE is partnering with The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and the Lindenwood Retreat at Ancilla College to create a one-of-a-kind work experience program for the students in the JESSE cooperative. With the help of a grant, that was received from the Marshall County Community Foundation, the partnership will allow the students to have access to learning skills aligned with their vocational goals through one of the six different ministries that are provided on the Ancilla campus.

Not only will the JESSE students learn a work skill that will help them with their own employability, but the Ancilla College students in the Education Program will also have the opportunity to train as Job Coaches, working on-site with our JESSE students.

We are looking forward to seeing this program grow and add more participants, as well as be absorbed into the Ancilla education curriculum as part of their student teaching requirements.

Here is a picture of Jake Snyder from LaVille High School, working in the greenhouse at Ancilla as part of his vocational job experience.



### Meet the Staff: Culver Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

Kristine (Kris) Arvelo is the classroom teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program hosted by Culver Community School Corporation. Kris works between Culver Elementary and Culver Jr.-Sr. High School. She is a Ball State graduate of 1986 in Deaf Education with a Master's Degree from IUSB. The past 30 years of teaching have been split between deaf education and severe disabilities (all grade levels, including preschool). Kris has taught in Yuma, Arizona, Indianapolis, Valparaiso, South Bend, Knox and Culver.

Before getting back into deaf education, she was the Special Olympic Director for Marshall and Starke Counties for 10 years. During the summer, she is the Girls Director at Woodcraft Camp at Culver Academy and I teach sign language to students who attend from all over the world.

Along with Kris, she also has a team of 8 educational interpreters that provide sign language for students within the various settings at school. The team of interpreters include the following:

**Nicole Burns, Jill Jenkins, Kimberly Pahl, Ruth Ann Soria, Tennille Feece, Kat LaScala, Kiscia Harshman, and Pat Lancet.**

These amazing ladies do a great job for students, and will be featured in future JESSE newsletters.

*Here are some additional pictures of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing team at Culver....*



*Kimberly (left), Kris (center), and Ruth Ann (right)*



*Jill Jenkins*



*Nicole (left), Pat (center), and Kiscia (right)*



Some unidentified goofballs.