



Utah Paraprofessional Consortium Meeting

February 2, 2011

The mission of the Utah Paraprofessional Consortium is to promote training and support for paraprofessionals, leading to improved outcomes for children, youth and families.

- Grant for Interveners (Linda Alsop) - Dilemma: How to provide a practicum with integrity and rigor in a web-based training program.
 - Grant received for a 4 year time period
 - Purpose is to improve Intervener training
 - Adding coursework
 - Improving the practicum experience
 - They are working towards a nationally recognized credential with the following components:
 - supervised, coached practicum which has integrity and rigor
 - portfolio
 - rigorous, in-depth coursework

- District/IHE Partnership update (Jerry Purles) Granite School District is taking the following steps:
 - It met recently with USU and U of U to identify paraeducators who were enrolled in teacher preparation programs
 - At the present time 13 paraeducators are enrolled, with up to 40 more "in the pipeline" to enter a university teacher preparation program.
 - They are also developing an intranet district website which will provide online training and information to their paraeducators.
 - They are also working to get email addresses for all district paraeducators to improve communication with their paraeducators.

- Found that having universities (IHEs) send representatives to the paraeducators in their district extremely valuable. Paraeducators are often intimidated about taking the first steps to obtaining training to become a teacher.
 - Paraeducator appreciation night will be April 7. At this, IHE representatives will be available to evaluate transcripts, provide information and guidance on entering a teacher preparation program, and scholarship information.
 - "This is a process, not an event."
 - They have observed that when they provide training to their paraeducators, those paraeducators are more apt to stay on the job (higher retention) in addition to having better skills.
- Bob Morgan observed that the college representatives have realized that they need to be more collaborative. If they know more about programs offered by other institutions, they can be more useful in advising paraeducators. Bob is preparing a grant request to provide inter-university training to advisors. The Utah Paraprofessional Consortium decided to write a letter of support for this grant.
- Utah Paraprofessional Website report - Melina Alexander
 - Melina, Marilyn Likins, and Tom Johnson have been working on the website. Links and information have been fixed and updated.
 - It will be linked to the USOE website. Changes made to the UtahParas.org website will show up on the USOE website.
 - Title I and ELL will be invited to be part of this website.
- Next Meeting: May 3, Tuesday 1-3 pm @ UPDC

In attendance: Diana Fillmore, Marilyn Likins (USU), Betty Ashbaker (BYU), Bob Morgan (USU), Nan Kilpatrick (USEA), Jerry Purles (Granite School District), Kit Giddings (UPDC), Connie Nink (USOE), Rebecca Farnsworth (Clear Horizons Academy), Melina Alexander (WSU), Linda Alsop (USU)