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The Early Intervention (EI) Scholars Program

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Summary/Abstract

The University of Massachusetts Boston has developed an integrated, research-based early intervention concentration in our Early Education and Care Inclusive Settings (EECIS) bachelor's degree program.

The program:

- Involves collaboration with partners in early childhood education (EC) and early intervention (EI) in the Greater Boston region.
- Addresses the need for more high quality, culturally and linguistically diverse early intervention specialists.

Goals and Objectives

- We provide full funding for two years
- Students make 2-4 year commitment to early intervention in urban/diverse setting

EI Scholars Project Goals:

1. Develop a sustainable EI concentration in the UMass Boston's EECIS Program.
2. Recruit 45 students into EI Scholars Program resulting in Early Intervention Developmental Specialist Credential and Bachelor's degree.
3. Develop and provide ongoing retention strategies to ensure all students complete EI Scholars Program.

Results/Impacts

2011-12 Accomplishments: *Planning Year*

- ✓ One new course developed
- ✓ Certified Program by the Department of Public Health (DPH)
- ✓ Recruitment and Partnerships with Community Colleges
- ✓ Partnerships with EI programs for internships and guest speakers
- ✓ EI only track established within EECIS major (only EI BA program in state)

2012-13: *Year One for Scholars*

- ✓ Complete EI program handbook for students, Wiki support for instructors
- ✓ Enroll 15 scholars to complete program (*At least 4 students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds*)
- ✓ Establish syllabi as evidence-based
- ✓ Establish support system for students to successfully finish degree and work in EI



Approaches and Methods

- Align internal efforts and communication with Academic Support Services and Admissions to support students.
- Develop partnerships with EI Programs across Boston Metro. Students and graduates are at:
 - Thom Boston Metro Early Intervention;
 - Harbor Area Early Intervention;
 - Criterion Medford;
 - Step One Early Intervention;
 - Bay Cove Early Intervention.
- Utilize stakeholder feedback regularly.
- Work collaboratively. Faculty are working closely with Department of Public Health.

Next Steps

- Research study ongoing on the the reflective practice of EI scholars
- Research study on the supports our students want and need in EECIS and EI Scholars
- Partnership to do research with immigrant families on their experience in EI

References and Resources

<http://earlyinterventionfunding.wikispaces.com/>

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