

## Emma Holmes Fellowship Final Report Janice Myck-Wayne, Ed.D

It was a pleasure and gift to be awarded the Emma Holmes Fellowship. The bulk of the work completed during the fellowship was to assist Anaheim Elementary School District (AESD) in building their inclusive preschool program. It was my goal to develop a professional learning community (PLC) with a group of early childhood and early childhood special education teachers. The PLC's goal is to begin the conversation about how to blend general education and special education preschool classrooms. I was able to interact and observe both EC and ECSE classrooms and meet with many teachers. In addition, my work with AESD entailed working with the Director of Special Education, Kristin Cinco, Megan Smith, Curriculum Specialist for Inclusive Practices, Intervention, and Behavior, Holly Shubin, Preschool Program Specialist, and Lynda Durand, School Readiness Coordinator.

### **Impact on my practice:**

This work impacted my practice by allowing me time to directly work with districts in the area of inclusive practices. I developed a course on inclusive practices (SPED 428) and the fellowship allowed me to implement coursework to practice. It provided the opportunity to discern if what we are teaching in the course has the practical application out in the field. Since more than half of the ECSE teachers in AESD are graduates from CSUF, I was able to get feedback on how courses taught in the ECSE program prepare our credential graduates for the field. As the ECSE credential coordinator, I work with other instructors in the program to best prepare our candidates. I research, consult and teach about inclusive practices, the fellowship offered the experience of actual implementation of my work.

### **Impact on the work at the College of Education:**

In addition, the fellowship provided me with the occasion to develop a working relationship with the Special Education team and Child Development Director at AESD. This will impact the work of the College of Education in terms of creating additional fieldwork placements, observations sites, joint professional development programs, mentorships and expert practitioners to become guest speakers. The work at the COE in the area of JEIE can be continued at AESD in promoting inclusive education settings.

My involvement with AESD special education services provides more access to the district. The collaboration and relationships developed over the past semester will hopefully continue and allow for other collaborative projects (e.g. Grants). Governor Newsom has included in his budget a substantial amount of funding for early education.

The EC/ECSE teachers at AESD, who are CSUF graduates, would like to maintain a connection to CSUF and supporting their PLC's gave me the opportunity to strengthen that connection.

### **Renewed my engagement in the field:**

My engagement in the field has always been strong, however, the fellowship provided engagement at the local level. Through my work with AESD, I began to develop strategies for bringing EC and ECSE teachers/staff and administrators together to make practical applications

to promoting inclusive practices. One area of professional development is in the area of *embedded instruction* and *embedded IEP goals*. While this is something that is taught in our ECSE program, it has not permeated into the field as an established practice. I will be working with other districts on this topic. My passion for the field remains strong, and being able to be back in classrooms and meet with staff and administrators gave me even more energy to stay involved and engaged.

**Achieving my stated goals:**

I believe I was able to achieve my stated goals. I would have liked to have set up more professional development programs, however, there was a change in administrative personnel at the beginning of the semester. AESD is adding two new inclusive classrooms for Fall, 2019. We completed a survey sent to EC/ESCE teachers to inquire about those interested in starting more programs and working with the PLC. I was able to provide information on ECSE inclusive practices to the Special Education administrative staff.

I will maintain a presence at AESD. I have a professional development session on embedding IEP goals scheduled in the spring.