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The ASSIST Lab: Exploring Perspectives, Successes, Tensions, and Struggles When Supporting Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Inclusive Postsecondary Education Settings

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Abstract

Exploring perspectives, successes, tensions, and struggles when supporting students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in inclusive postsecondary education settings.

Keywords

ASSIST Lab, social and behavioral sciences

Comments

This research is part of The ASSIST Lab.

The ASSIST Lab:

Exploring perspectives, successes, tensions, and struggles when supporting students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in inclusive postsecondary education settings.

PRESENTER:

Nathan McCoy
Calina Drakulic

BACKGROUND:

The ASSIST Lab has worked on several projects. This semester, it was focused on working with students from the PEERS program. The PEERS Program consists of three students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The students in the PEERS program have been admitted to Boise State with the goal of earning a certificate. This certificate is a two year program that has been approved by the State Board of Education.

The goal of the ASSIST lab is to be a support system for the students in the PEERS program. This semester, the ASSIST Lab consists of us presenters, Calina Drakulic and Nathan McCoy, as well as 3 graduate students. Calina is a sophomore standing psychology major. Nathan is a senior standing biology major. Both of us had interest in gaining experience in working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



METHODS

- 1.) Had individuals who work in the ASSIST Lab participate in classroom studies and study tables.
- 2.) Different individuals participated in classwork and study tables.
- 3.) These individuals answered journal questions and focus group questions about interactions with these students

DATA

- "Being in some of the classes and the study table setting with them, I think that it showed that they are capable of a lot more than I would expect"- Calina Drakulic
- We faced a struggle with one student in particular that was having a problem with constantly falling asleep in class.
- "I feel like individuals with intellectual disabilities can succeed in higher education. They engage with the material, and more importantly ask for help". Nathan McCoy
- All students had trouble keeping 100% focused during our class lecture time, but seemed to stay focused during study table.

RESULTS

- We found success with our study table activities. All students were mostly engaged, and completed their work during our given time. They were led by us, and completed weekly.
- We found a solution to the problem with one of the students having trouble staying awake in class by having him stand up for a couple minutes if he should fall asleep.
- We felt successful with keeping the students engaged in the lectures and activities that they completed during class and study table.
- We are confident in the students abilities to continue towards earning their certificate at the end of their postsecondary education.

CONCLUSIONS

After this semester in the ASSIST Lab our perspectives with working with students with intellectual and developmental disabilities become more Inclusive and accepting.



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