



Early Childhood Advisory Meeting



University of Massachusetts Boston
April 16, 2008



Agenda




- Introductions and Welcome
- Early Childhood Education at UMB
 - Funding
 - Including ALL Children Grant
 - Building Careers – *Lisa Van Thiel*
 - Pathways
- Update on Boston Ready Grant
 - Accomplishments and changes - *Mary Lu Love*
- Small group work

Introductions



- Find someone new to you in the group
- Share a childhood game that you enjoyed playing
 - Link with your current role supporting early childhood educators
- Introduce yourself with two sentences
- Share any information that you brought for the group

Funding Streams for ECE Study



Massachusetts funding:

- Building Careers
- ECE & Paraprofessional Scholarship


Unique to UMB

- *Including ALL Children* – a forgivable loan program

Building Careers - Lisa Van Thiel

Late start to this fiscal year


- December 2007 - UMass received \$26,100
- January 2008 - increased to \$52,100



Building Careers - Recruitment

- Former Building Careers Students (13)
- Head Start and CPC (53) served (25)
- Head Start and Donahue Institute (15)

Total recruited for courses spring 2008 (53)



Building Careers - Enrolled

- 15 students in three early childhood courses
- 25 students
 - Created and funded a new course crossing over two spring/summer semester
- 13 Former Building Career Students:
 - 1 early childhood course
 - 28 general education courses

Total number of seats in courses funded = 68



Building Careers Career and Academic Advising

Informational night for former BC students Nov. 2007

- Four have matriculated
- Three remain in Building Careers
- One funded through EEC scholarship this semester

Other meetings:

- March 8, 2008 - 36 students informational session with admissions
- May 8, 2008 - Building Careers cohort meeting
- May and June - Arrange site visits
 - 40 program
 - Design individual professional development plans



Building Careers: Collaboration and Coordination

May outreach meeting with EC partners:

- Head Start
- Resource and Referral Agencies
- Community Partnerships for Children
- Family Child Care
- Others



Including ALL Children

“Forgivable loan program”

- Each year of full-time school = two years of working with children with disabilities
 - Early Intervention
 - Inclusion classrooms, etc
- Teacher Licensure program only:
 - <http://includingallchildren.wikispaces.com/>

This project is funded through a Department of Education- OSEP Grant CFDA 84.325K: Special Education/Personnel Preparation to Improve Services and Results for Children With Disabilities



Including ALL Children - Next Steps

- Contact Jorgelina Abbate-Vaughn
 - early_childhood@umb.edu
- Complete *Including ALL Children* application
 - Document 3.0 GPA
- Await notification of awards committee
 - <http://communityinclusion.org/iac/>


Where to Find ECE Help at UMB

For specific EC information, contact:

Lisa Van Thiel
Office 617-287-5925 Lisa.VanThiel@umb.edu

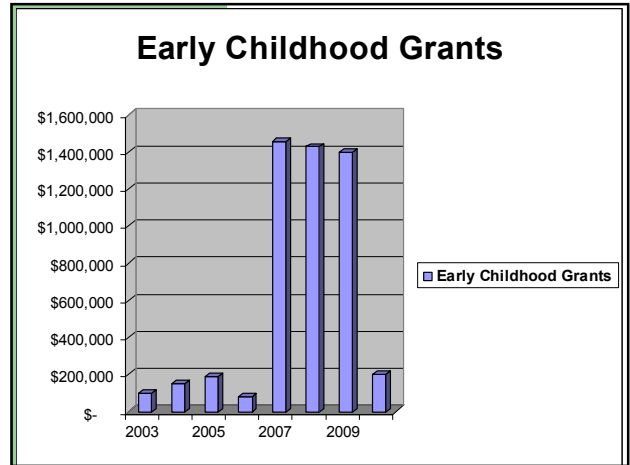
Teacher Advising Office
(Wheatley 1st floor, GCE Dean’s Office)
617-287-7625 grad.teachered@umb.edu

Including ALL Children: Early.Childhood@umb.edu

jumpstart 
CONNECT CARES

Working and Experience


- **Jumpstart** - Work in a community setting with at-risk, individual four-year-olds: <http://www.jstart.org/>
- **Early Learning Center** – UMass Boston’s own early care and education program
 - 2 Harbor Point Boulevard (617) 287-6195
 - <http://www.umb.edu/students/childcare/>



Technology Grant (2008 – 2009)

The University of Massachusetts System
Technology Grant (D’Alotto/Paugh)


- Provides seed funding for laptop computer lending program for paraprofessionals
- Includes enhanced academic support
- Research to improve support system



Recruiting Early Childhood Educators

Why recruit paraprofessionals?

- High retention rates
- Create cultural bridges for students
- Assist with ELL in the classroom



New Partnership with Continuing Education (CCDE)

Grouping courses to meet EEC requirements for:


- Lead Teacher
 - Preschool
 - Infant-Toddler
- Director I and Director II

Exposure and recruitment
On-line and face-to-face options



Future Grant Possibilities

- Forming partnerships for applications for additional grants, one is a ELL focus in variety of preschool settings
- Two proposals pending funding



Boston Ready – Research and EC Professional Development Grant

- Boston Ready Partnership:
 - Boston Public Schools,
 - ICI & GCE at UMass Boston,
 - Wellesley Centers for Women
- Sub contracts with:
 - Federation for Children with Special Needs
 - Roxbury Community College
 - Horizons for Homeless Children



Funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (Award #S349A060033).

Professional Development Sites

- BPS: 21 schools, 33 K-1 classrooms
- 7 days of Professional Development
- Twice the intensity of coaching
- Optional Courses
- Parent events
 - 4 held this year
 - 28 parents at one scheduled event



Boston Ready PD - 2007

September to December 2007

- 15 days (5 training hours)
- Attendance
 - 37 teachers, 25 paraprofessionals
 - 283 days or 1415 hours of professional development
 - Estimated 450 students affected
- Topics
 - Facilitating Language
 - Universal Design
 - Building Blocks
 - OWL with a New Lens



Boston Ready Courses 2007- 08

Optional Undergraduate, Graduate, BPS In-Service

- Language and Literacy Development in Early Childhood
- Science and Math Instruction for All Young Children
- Creating Effective Learning Environments - Fostering Positive Social Interaction
- Exploring Early Literacy Mentoring

Participation:

1 Coach - 5 paraprofessionals – 16 Teachers



2007-2008 Data Collection



Sites

- 21 BPS Intervention Schools
 - 33 classrooms
- 13 BPS Control Schools
 - 20 classrooms
- 5 non -BPS Control Schools
 - 23 classrooms



Boston Ready Data 2007- 08

- Data collected (fall 07 & spring 08)
 - ELLCO, classroom quality
 - Teacher surveys
 - PALS – child outcomes
 - PPVT – child outcomes
 - Parent surveys
- Potential BPS use of data
 - Longitudinal study of child outcomes



Planning considerations for 2008- 09

- Professional development
 - Scheduling
 - Organization
 - Development
- Course work: Some face-to-face classes
- Recruit from 21 additional BPS schools
- Research intensity of coaching



Feedback from Fall 07 Advisory Meeting



Research Center

- History
- Office of Research and Sponsored Project's, *Research Re-envisioned*
- A "research center"

Student Challenges to Recruitment

1. Academic challenges
2. Culture of higher education
3. English language skills
4. Lack of support networks
5. Foreign transcripts



Challenges to Program Retention

- Multiple jobs
- Family commitments
- Technology – hardware & knowledge
- Preparedness
- Opportunities to practice literacy



Small Groups



1. Designate roles:
 - Facilitator
 - Scribe
 - Reporter to group
2. Discuss the question
3. Formulate your response
4. Report to large group

Responses will be synthesized and posted on the Boston Ready website: <http://bostonready.org/>

Networking Lunch

Thanks for your contribution to early childhood's many faces at UMB!

