Ensuring a Quality Education for Indiana's Students with Disabilities: Results from a DOE Grant

Ball State University’s Philosophy for Facilitating Success for Students with Disabilities (SWDs)

Ball State University has a distinguished history of providing access and opportunity for SWDs. While the Office of Disabled Student Development is at the center of an integrated campus approach that facilitates access for students with disabilities, Ball State’s success in serving SWDs is the result of a campus-wide commitment by faculty, professional staff (including academic advisors), and administrators to academic and personal achievement for SWDs.

Faculty Mentorship Program for SWDs

New SWDs are connected with a faculty member in the student’s major or area of interest. The mentor and student meet on a regular basis. The mentor will:
• Provide tips on how to interact with professors
• Serve as a friend to help with transition questions
• Act as a resource person to help investigate the major and related career options

Results
• Higher GPAs
• More credit hours earned
• Higher retention rates

Learning Center Support for SWDs

Results
• Additional tutoring & study assistance for SWDs
• Trained peer tutors on interacting and tutoring SWDs

Educational Development for Faculty and Staff

Local and national experts help campus educators understand best practices and current research in teaching students with disabilities.
• Provide tips on teaching students with different disability types
• Introduce and give examples on how to include universal design in the classroom
• How to mentor SWDs

Results
• Better informed faculty and staff
• Increased comfort levels of working with SWDs
• Higher success rate for SWDs

Outreach to Indiana’s K-12 Community

Results
• Brochure on the transition to college for SWDs sent to each high school in Indiana
• Presentations given to groups across Indiana specializing in transition

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