

Project KSR: Preparing Knowledgeable, Skilled, and Responsive Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Personnel for High-Need Communities

Overall Purpose of Project KSR:

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), **Project KSR** was developed to prepare fully credentialed early intervention and early childhood special educators with the necessary competencies to use evidence-based practices that improve learning and developmental outcomes for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children from high-need communities, including children with disabilities.

Specific Goals of Project KSR:

- Prepare fully credentialed early intervention/early childhood special education (EI/ECSE) personnel and support beginning early childhood special educators with conditional licenses to obtain endorsement in EI/ECSE;
- Increase community-based competencies of EI/ECSE personnel for high quality services in high need communities and inclusive programs;
- Enhance evidence-based practices in assessment, program planning, and progress monitoring that will lead to improved outcomes for children and families.

Who Are Eligible to Apply:

- Current ECSE students who are pursuing their M.Ed. program which is state approved to meet all of the requirements for the Virginia license in ECSE;
- Beginning special educators with conditional license to obtain endorsement in EI/ECSE;
- Early childhood educators with BS or BA degrees who teach in inclusive programs (e.g., Head Start, Virginia Preschool Initiative, or other community-based inclusive childcare programs);
- Recent graduates with BA or BS majoring in education, psychology, interdisciplinary studies, sociology, social work, or other related areas.

Support Provided by Project KSR:

- Tuition
- Textbooks
- Technology
- Professional development

Contact Information:

- Yaoying Xu, Ph.D., Principal Investigator (PI), yxu2@vcu.edu ; 804-828-5298(Office)
- Mary Ellen Huennekens, Ph.D., Co-PI, huennekensme@vcu.edu
- Serra De Arment, M.Ed., Coordinator, dearmentst@vcu.edu