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