

# Center for Promoting Research to Practice - Schools, Families, Communities (CPRP)

Three- Year Strategic Plan

2004 to 2007



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## Center for Promoting Research to Practice – Schools, Families, Communities

### **Vision**

The Center for Promoting Research to Practice intends to develop practical solutions to real problems for those individuals at-risk or who have disabilities. All too often research that is created for these individuals remains at the development level and is not disseminated into best practices. Using an interdisciplinary approach and establishing a living laboratory through partnerships with schools, parent and families, and community service and support providers, the Center aspires to distinguish itself as a leader at state, regional, and national levels in addressing the need for the production of research to reach the users and consumers of research.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Center for Promoting Research to Practice (CPRP) is to generate new knowledge that will favorably impact the lives of individuals with or at risk for disabilities and promote the use of evidence-based best practices by schools, families, and community service providers.

### **Strategic Goals**

Three strategic goals have been established to bring research to practice:

- Conducting applied research
- Building partnerships
- Promoting dissemination

These goals fit within Goal 4 of the Seven Goals of Lehigh (Research, Graduate Education, Life Long Learning) and the College of Education strategic goal of: Establish

COE areas of excellence such as healthy development of individuals with disabilities, international education, and innovations in teaching and learning.

*Conducting Applied Research*

**Strategic Goal - *Conducting Applied Research***

- **Conduct rigorous, empirical research focused on understanding the practical impact of effective practices for individuals with academic and behavior problems**

Research conducted through the Center will emphasize individuals who have or are at-risk for disabilities.

*Objectives:*

- **Submit at least 2 proposals per year, obtain at least 1 per year**  
This rate of proposal submission and success is set as an average across the three years of the strategic plan.
- **Hire two-year post-doctoral fellow to begin in 05-06**  
Post-doctoral fellows will enhance the Center by conducting their own research related to existing projects in the Center, support ongoing research efforts within the Center, and engage in grant writing.
- **Hire a full-time Research Scientist position to begin in 07 -08**  
This position should be an outgrowth of the success of the post-doctoral fellow

The CPRP focuses on securing research projects that emphasize bringing research findings from the field and moving them into effective practice with evaluation of outcomes. The projects secured by the CPRP faculty focus on individuals who have identified areas of disability or are considered at-risk for developing disabilities. For example, two research projects in the Center are examining the most effective

intervention strategies for improving behavioral and academic outcomes for students with behavior disorders. One project focuses on understanding effective, scientifically-based interventions in educating students who present severe challenges to the schools. The other project is focused on examining those factors within schools that enhance or diminish the use of positive behavioral support for students with disabilities and to examine the quality-of-life outcomes of functional assessment-based support plans.

### *Partnership*

#### ***Strategic Goal – Building Partnerships***

- **Establish and maintain partnerships in support of bringing research to practice**

#### *Objectives:*

- **Collaborate with local and regional schools/agencies to identify and conduct research of mutual interest**
- **Provide pre-proposal support to encourage cross-program and cross-college collaboration**
- **Support cross-university research proposals**
- **Visit Center Directors and Centers across universities to facilitate cross-university partnership**
- **Hold the initial biennial Center Advisory Board meeting**

The Center forms and maintains partnerships at national, regional, and local levels. Several objectives are established to accomplish this goal. Beginning with the

04-05 academic year, the CPRP will assist with the development and implementation of research projects designed in local school districts and intermediate units. Many school districts, particularly small and rural districts, do not have the capacity to engage in wide-scale research efforts. Yet, these districts often have very significant needs for empirically-based decision making. The CPRP will provide a cost-effective vehicle for these districts to engage in such research efforts.

Another level of partnership for the CPRP is interdisciplinary research within the University community. This objective will be met through facilitating cross-college and cross-program proposals. Continuous efforts will be made to invite colleagues from across departments and colleges in the University to join with faculty in the College of Education in pursuing research interests that are within the mission of the Center. Efforts will also continue to conduct research with colleagues across institutions. Currently, three of four active projects in the Center are linked to partner institutions including University of California – Riverside, University of Oregon, and the Instructional Research Group in Long Beach, California, and Pacific Institutes for Research in Eugene, Oregon, both private research institutes.

To strengthen partnerships across institutions, the director of the CPRP will meet personally with directors of several Centers across universities in the United States. These visits will be conducted to learn more about how successful Centers with missions similar to the CPRP operate, as well as to plant the seeds of personal partnerships for future projects. In addition, the Center Advisory Board meeting will be held to provide feedback on the strategic direction, goals, and operation of the Center.

*Dissemination*

***Strategic Goal – Conducting Dissemination***

- **Bring research findings from projects in Center to practitioners and parents**

*Objectives:*

- **Improve web site dissemination efforts of existing projects**
- **Implement dissemination requirements of FIPSE projects**
- **Expand scope of national conference funded by OSEP grant on best practices in research to practice to be held in 2006 -2007**
- **Develop and disseminate biennial report about the Center**
- **Conduct presentations to local, state educational agencies, community agencies, parent groups about the Center and its operation**
- **Publish at least two articles per year based on research conducted through projects in the CPRP**

The CPRP is a resource for distilling and bringing research findings to the field. Although investigators conducting research will certainly publish the outcomes of findings in professional journals and outlets, the CPRP plans to initiate dissemination to parents, teachers, and other practitioners in a format that more easily affects practice.

The Center's mission, goals, current accomplishments, as well as its future initiatives will be disseminated to groups both on- and off campus. Included in its objectives are the development of publicity about the Center itself and outcomes of Center projects through varied forms of communication across campus as well as institutions of higher education, local/state educational agencies, community agencies, and parent groups. The CPRP will be planning a national conference on bringing research to practice which is scheduled for 2006 – 2007. The conference will expand the scope of the conference required by Project REACH.

Priority	Objectives	Time Line		
		04-05	05-06	06-07
<b><i>Conducting Applied Research</i></b>	Submit at least 2 proposals per year, obtain at least 1 per year	?	?	?
	Conduct research focused on understanding the impact of effective practices for students with academic and behavior problems	?	?	?
	Hire two-year post-doctoral fellow-		? (search)	?
	Hire a full-time Research Scientist position			? (search)
<b><i>Building Partnerships</i></b>	Collaborate with local and regional schools/agencies to identify and conduct research of mutual interest	?	?	?
	Provide pre-proposal support to encourage cross-program and cross-college collaboration	?	?	?
	Visit Center Directors and Centers across universities to facilitate cross-university partnership	?		
	Support cross-university research proposals	?	?	?
	Hold the initial biennial Center Advisory Board meeting	?		?
<b><i>Dissemination</i></b>	Improve web site dissemination efforts of existing projects	?	?	?
	Implement dissemination requirements of FIPSE projects	? FIPSE 2	? FIPSE 3	? FIPSE 4
	Expand scope of national conference funded by OSEP grant on best practices in research to practice to be held in 2006-2007	?	? (planning)	? (implement)
	Develop and disseminate biennial report about the Center	?		?
	Conduct presentations to local, state educational agencies, community agencies, parent groups about the Center and its operation	?	?	?
	Publish at least two articles per year based on research conducted through projects in the CPRP	?	?	?