2009

Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education Application

To, acknowledge, encourage and expand promising practices in the inclusion of students with disabilities in all aspects of the public education system

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities is seeking applications for its 2009 Fellowship Awards in Inclusive Education. These awards are given out annually to recognize innovative, replicable programs and curricula that demonstrate the best practices in including students with disabilities in general education classes.

The Council's goals are to identify programs that work to reduce barriers to students with disabilities learning alongside their peers and to highlight and honor those quality inclusion efforts.

Winners will receive $1,000 and their award winning education practices will be publicized in an effort to have those best practices replicated in other settings.

We are requesting that your district circulate this notice to principals, special education directors and to any other locations and staff that might have activities that would be considered. You can take a look at previous Fellowship Award winners on the Council on Developmental Disabilities website: www.njcdd.org.

Deadline:
Applications must be received no later than **January 19, 2009**.

New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education

General Information

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities is seeking applications for its Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education. The Council is a federally funded organization charged with providing policy advice to public officials on issues important to persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The Council's Education Task Force provides policy direction to the Council in the area of education for students with developmental disabilities.

The Fellowship Program was created to highlight contributions to progress and to acknowledge, encourage, and expand promising practices in the inclusion of students with disabilities in all aspects of the public education system. The goal of the Fellowship program is to develop an active and highly diverse network of individuals who proactively embrace the principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Any individual or group of individuals who encourage the inclusion of students with disabilities in all areas of school life, including academic and non-academic activities, e.g., extra-curricular activities, social supports, related services, etc. Applicants must embrace the concept that children with disabilities have the right to be educated in the general education program alongside non-disabled peers and be committed to making that concept a reality for their students.

Applicants are required to demonstrate a commitment to an identified practice, which meets the criteria identified in this application package. In addition, the utilization of the monetary Fellowship Award must be clearly described. The applications will be screened by a committee (members of the Council's Education Task Force). Following screening, finalists will be interviewed and winners will be selected. Past winners may not apply for the same practice.

Applications describing segregated services within the general education setting or in segregated settings will not be considered. Practices must involve students with IEP's and non-disabled peers in academic and non-academic settings. The practice must involve collaboration between general and special educators and be an ONGOING activity, not a single special event.

What does the Award include?

Up to 10 Fellowships of $1,000 will be awarded to be used to broaden inclusive practices within the district. Descriptions of the winners, along with their practice will be highlighted in a publication of the Council on Developmental Disabilities, along with recognition in an award ceremony.

Application Criteria (All criteria must be met). When answering the application questions please be sure to reflect the criteria below:

1. The practice may not be a separate practice focused only on students who have IEP's.
2. There must be direct involvement with peers without disabilities.
3. The practice must involve collaboration between all types of staff, including general education and special education staff.
4. The practice must be an ongoing inclusive practice, not a single special event.
5. The practice has its foundation in the general education program
6. The practice incorporates long term goals building to the achievement of life outcomes.
7. The practice clearly demonstrates collaboration among all types of staff.
8. There is administrative support for the practice.
9. The practice demonstrates respect for family values.
10. The practice works from a strengths based model.
11. Adaptations are the norm-not just practiced for individual children.
12. The practice demonstrates high expectations for achievement for children with disabilities.
13. The practice promotes equal membership.
14. The practice could be replicated by other individuals in additional settings.

Examples of previous Fellowship Award winners:
The following are some examples of practices previously recognized by the Fellowship Program. Inclusive education practices are as varied as the creative individuals who implement them; therefore, applicants are encouraged to seek recognition for both practices that are variations of and entirely different from those listed examples.

- A superintendent of schools is guided by the districts mission to provide full inclusion; establishes new initiatives to provide supports for educators, including planning time, trainings, and collaboration amongst school and community members.
- A principal provides intense training for general and special education teachers on differentiated instruction, and offers workshops on inclusive education to parents of both general and special education students.
- An inclusion facilitator works collaboratively with general education teachers to ensure the students with IEP's stay aligned with the general education curriculum. She makes modifications, provides trainings and reaches out to parents on an ongoing basis.
- A middle school certified teacher of the deaf, in supporting several students who are deaf, teaches the hearing students to produce signs so they in turn can have a two way conversation, thereby promoting a classroom community. In addition she provides resource instructions through collaborative relationships with the general education teachers.
- A high school music teacher enables every child, regardless of disability or learning need, to participate in the music program. He added different types of instruments to the program to ensure a selection suitable for all children with varied abilities. A scholarship program was established to provide rental instruments for students were unable to afford the fees.

New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education

2009 Application Form

Please provide information for each applicant:

Name(s) of Applicant(s): _____

School District: _____

Position(s): _____

School/Work address(es):

_____

Work Phone(s) _____

Email(s)_____

Signature of Supervisor (Principal, Director of Special Services, etc.)

_____

Application Questions:

Please answer all of the following questions. Use no more than 8 pages (8 1/2 x 11), double spaced. Answers exceeding the page limit will disqualify your application.

1. **Describe your philosophy of educating students with disabilities.**
2. **Describe the practice for which you are applying, including the length of time practice has been in place and number of students with and without IEP's involved.**
3. **Show evidence of how your practice reflects your philosophy.**
4. **Describe in detail how you would use the Fellowship award to enhance/expand your activities.**

Please keep the application criteria in mind when answering the questions.

Send application form and attachments with your answers to each of the four questions by **January 19. 2009**.

Mail:
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Trenton, NJ 08625
Attention: Douglas McGruther

Fax: 609-292-7114