Nov 5th, 8:05 AM - 8:25 AM

Opening Remarks- “Inclusion: Our Grit Journey”

Debra Leach

Winthrop University, leachd@winthrop.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/inclusionconference

Part of the Disability and Equity in Education Commons, and the Teacher Education and Professional Development Commons

https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/inclusionconference/2016/schedule/2

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences and Events at Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Inclusion Across the Lifespan Conference by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. For more information, please contact bbramed@winthrop.edu.
INCLUSION: OUR GRIT JOURNEY

Deb Leach, Ed.D., BCBA
leachd@winthrop.edu
SPECIAL EDUCATION OR SPECIAL SEGREGATION?

• Keep in mind:
  - Special education includes the delivery of services and supports to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.
  - It is not a place.
  - It could and should be delivered by a variety of professionals, not just special education teachers.
  - When we choose not to deliver special education services and supports in general education classrooms:
    - Is that because we haven’t figured out how to do so effectively?
    - Is that because we haven’t provided the necessary supports and services to promote success?
  - The above are not reasons to segregate students with disabilities.
WHAT DO WE NEED TO INCREASE THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF INCLUSIVE PRACTICES?

• Professional development (e.g. understanding strengths and needs of students; differentiated instruction/UDL; multi-tiered systems of academic and behavioral support; collaboration/co-teaching)

• Shift in belief systems (e.g. there are no pre-requisites for inclusive placements, when research-based practices are used, inclusion has positive outcomes for ALL students)

• Better use of funds (gen ed and special ed)

• GRIT!
WHAT IS GRIT?

- Synonyms: courage, bravery, backbone, spirit, strength of character, moral fiber, nerve, fortitude, toughness, resolve, determination, tenacity, perseverance, endurance, guts, 

GRIT a positive trait based on passion, perseverance, and motivation
WHY DO WE NEED MORE GRIT TO INCREASE THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF INCLUSIVE PRACTICES?

- Because implementing effective inclusive practices is really difficult.

and

- It’s worth it!
INGREDIENTS FOR GRIT ACCORDING TO ANGELA DUCKWORTH’S RESEARCH

• Interest that leads to a passion that leads to a focused purpose.
• Deliberate practice (excellence is almost never effortless)
• Hope and optimism
• Consistency over time
• Perseverance
• Growth mindset (success is never final; failure is never fatal)
• Talent (but effort counts twice as much as talent)
SUPERLATIVE PERFORMANCE DOESN’T REQUIRE EXTRAORDINARY OR SUPERHUMAN QUALITIES

- It requires a synthesis of smaller skills done consistently and correctly.
- Skills that effective inclusion teachers learn (each one can be broken down into smaller skills):
  - Use of PBIS
  - Ability to differentiate instruction and assessment practices
  - Prioritization of learning objectives
  - Evidence-based teaching practices
  - Use of peer-mediated instruction and intervention
  - Collaboration
  - Embedding IEP objectives into ongoing instructional and non-instructional routines and activities
EACH PERSON’S GRIT SERVES AS AN EXAMPLE AND A MOTIVATOR FOR OTHERS