

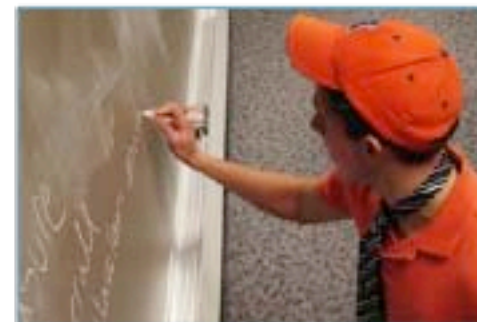


ILLINOIS

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

## The Integration of Research, Teaching, and Service Learning in Doctoral Leadership Preparation

Department of Special Education



An important thing that changed in me was to be accepting, not just to be a “do-gooder”, but to really understand that disability or not, all of us are similar and want the same things: friendship, love, and acceptance of who we are.

Freshman in SPED 117-D 12/10/08



**Dr. Jan Gaffney**

# Preparation of Leaders for Access by Design (PLAD)

U.S. Department of Education

- A collaboration of 6 faculty members
- Preparation of future leaders
  - with expertise in facilitating access
  - for children and youth with disabilities
  - to all facets of society
  - alongside peers without disabilities
- Emphasis on education . . . learning
- Learning through service

## Definition of Service Learning

“Service learning is a method of teaching and learning that connects classroom lessons with meaningful service to the community. Students build academic skills while strengthening communities through service.”

National Service Learning Clearinghouse  
<http://www.servicelearning.org>





# Unique Elements of PLAD

- Collaborative mentorship
- Reframing service learning
- Community partnerships and engagement
- Research on service learning





**Dr. Stacy Dymond**



## Service-Learning Competencies

- Understand methods for incorporating service learning in educational settings that include K-12 students with and without disabilities
- Understand methods for embedding service learning within teacher preparation courses
- Understand rigorous methods for evaluating the impact of SL





## Methods for Meeting Service-Learning Competencies

- Coursework – participate in a SL project
  - Advanced topics course on SL
  - Independent study
- Traineeships - teach others to use SL
  - Teaching traineeship
  - Research traineeship



# My Service-Learning Journey

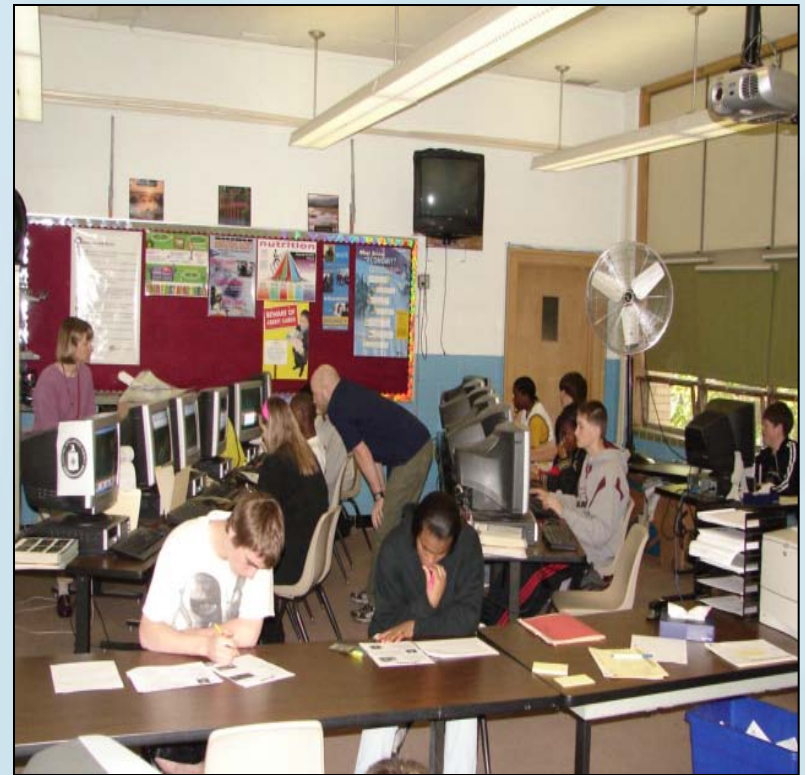


**Florence Muwana**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Year Doctoral Student**



**Lance Neeper**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Doctoral Student**

# Building on Experience





## My Story

- My experiences as a special education teacher led to questions.
- My questions led me to faculty experts.
- Faculty experts created opportunities for me to explore the literature and assist in research.
- These experiences led to the development of my own teaching and research agenda and many more questions . . .



# Impact of PLAD Grant

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Faculty</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Doctoral Students</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Courses</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Manuscripts Submitted</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Publications</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Presentations</b>	<b>49</b>