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
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
Service Learning

Teaching

Community Engagement

Research
Unique Elements of PLAD

- Collaborative mentorship
- Reframing service learning
- Community partnerships and engagement
- Research on service learning
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
4th Year Doctoral Student
Lance Neeper
3rd 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

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