

**Working with Secondary Education Students with Autism  
Spectrum Disorder (ASD):  
Lessons Learned from the Implementation of a Clinically-rich  
Endorsement Certificate Pilot Program Geared toward  
Graduate Teacher Education Candidates in Various Content  
Areas**

**Julio C. González Martínez Ed.D.**

**Sanja Cale Ph.D., BCBA-D**

**State University of New York College at Old Westbury**

**Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at SUNY Old Westbury**

**INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR PREPARATION: MOVING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY:**

**A STATEWIDE CONVENING OF SUNY TEACHER AND LEADER EDUCATION NETWORK (S-TEN)**

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# Preparing Graduate Teacher Education Candidates to work with High School Students Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

## Background and Rationale

- Supports for students with ASD are most often delivered through specialized instruction provided by special education teachers. Despite the fact that many students with varying forms of ASD are placed in general education settings, their general education teachers are rarely prepared to deliver appropriate instruction that meets their specific needs.

# Program Goals

1. To provide an opportunity for candidates enrolled in the Adolescence Education program to interface directly with students with ASD in various classroom settings
2. To identify evidenced based practices to support students with ASD in the general education setting
3. To provide specific training in data driven instruction
4. To provide opportunities for effective collaboration
5. To identify external funding opportunities to sustain the program
6. To develop a model post secondary program that provides specialized instruction to Adolescence Education teacher candidates in working effectively with students with ASD which can be implemented at other colleges and universities.

# Partner: Plainview Old-Bethpage John F. Kennedy HS

- Serves grades 9-12
- 1,553 students
- 19 classified with ASD
- OHI

# The Clinically-rich Model:

- Weekly interaction with Clinical Mentors in various classroom settings
- Data collected on relevant topics
- Bi-weekly college seminar
- Online modules
- Pre and post assessments on weekly targets
- RCASD-Old Westbury- candidate and mentor collaboration in workshops
- *Culminating activity:* Create an empirically-supported guide for general education instruction in teaching students with ASD.

# Themes and Topics in the Pilot Program Include:

- Introduction to Autism
- Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Classroom
- Recognizing Autism
  - Cognitive Differences
  - Language and Communication
  - Restricted Patterns of Behavior
  - Skills Functioning
- Autism in the Classroom
  - Antecedent Based Intervention
  - Differential Reinforcement
  - Peer Mediated Instruction
  - Prompting
  - Structured Teaching
  - Task Analysis
- Autism in the Classroom (continued)
  - Visual Supports
  - Naturalistic Interventions
  - Reinforcements
  - Self Management
  - Supporting Successful Completion of Homework
  - Functional Behavioral Assessment
  - Functional Communication Training
  - Social Narratives
  - Social Skills Groups
  - Video Modeling
- Working with families of students with ASD
- Collaboration with Professionals

## Lessons Learned

- Scheduling and Recruitment
- Affiliations and Partnering
- Placement and Management
- Assessment and Reporting
- Funding and Sustainability

# Final lesson learned....

Bring BAGELS!

