

Education & Disability Psychology

WCU & Activity Expo: Creating Educational Activities for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Faculty Ellen A. Sigler (esigler@wcu.edu) along with graduate student Caroline Branton (ccbranton@email.wcu.edu) and undergraduate Manuel Zenquis (mrzenquis1@catamount.wcu.edu) have worked with Sulina George (sgeorge@lifespanservices.org) from Lifespan Services to support the inclusion of adults with disabilities through learning and interaction. Lifespan Service's goal is to develop and operate programs that emphasize inclusion, and choice in order to provide education, employment, and enrichment to individuals with developmental disabilities. Students in the Psychological Perspectives of Developmental Disabilities course work on a semester-long project that begins with research about developmental disabilities and culminates with an Activities Expo. At the expo, students interact one-on-one with adults with developmental disabilities working with activities that the students have developed. The interaction is beneficial for all involved and supports a sense of community and belonging.

Dr. Sigler explained about the Activity Expo impact, "I believe this project is a perfect melding of service, teaching, and scholarship. I believe strongly in service to the community and supporting Lifespan Services is a way of showing appreciation for all they do. Additionally, my immersion in the community affords me the opportunity to embed in my classes real-world experiences above and beyond what is in the textbook. Lastly, utilizing this as a source of data collection and analysis allows me to disseminate the results of these efforts.

However, the impetus of this project is not really based on my career, but in my strong desire to support individuals with disabilities becoming a *part* of the community....and to show my students the joy of being a part of this process."

For more information see: <http://www.lifespanservices.org/>

If you would like your community engagement work recognized through the *STAR Engagement Projects* program, please submit your proposals through the [Community-based Activities Faculty Survey](#) administered annually in the spring semester from early April – late May.

