In October 2017, Western Carolina University’s Special Education Program received a five year grant.  

**Eligibility:** The project offers tuition support to MAT and MAED graduate students fully admitted to WCU with priority given to:

1) Professionals in rural NC school districts from 4-6 focus districts partners with WCU  
2) Professionals employed in other rural NC schools  
3) Professionals employed in non-rural NC schools  
4) Others currently in WCU graduate school in special education/related fields

**Financial Support and Requirements**

- Tuition Stipends  
- Graduate Assistantships  
- Summer Camp Participation and Technology Instruction  
- Online instruction for coursework with summer camps at WCU, live coaching through a Teacher Support Program, and a capstone practicum experience

**Professional Development Competencies Areas in Transition and Severe Disabilities:**

- Research Knowledge  
- Transition Planning  
- Transition Assessment  
- Instruction for Personal Development  
- Life Skills  
- General Curriculum Access and Inclusion  
- Performance Monitoring  
- Collaboration  
- Addressing Systemic Policy Change

**Project Goal ...** to improve post-school outcomes for students with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in North Carolina, especially those from rural areas, by preparing middle and high school teachers, transition specialists, and related-services providers (speech/language therapists, school counselors, school psychologists, or social workers) to use effective, evidence-based practices that will improve transition from school to adulthood.

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Funded by the U.S. Department of Education Grant No. H325K170033