



Career Development 2020
Rehab Seminars
General and Special Ed. Conference
2/12/20-2/14/20
Orlando, FL

This year, I was able to use my career development grant to attend the Rehab Seminars General and Special Ed. Conference in Orlando, Florida. This is the first time I have used a career development grant, and I feel it was an incredible opportunity.

I selected this conference because of the focus on special education and specifically the early childhood relevant issues discussed. Over the past five years, Paul Banks has had a significant increase in special education students. Being current on the latest and greatest theory and techniques is imperative to our success.

I attended three seminars; Achieve Success with Defiant, Emotional and Disengaged Students, Nipping Escalations in the Bud, and Is it Disability Behavior or Just Disruptive Behavior? I was also able to attend part of Seminar from the author of Zones or Regulation.

Achieve Success with Defiant, Emotional and Disengaged Students was presented by Mary Ann Brittingham. This seminar focused on the 'why' students have undesirable behavior. Gaining a better insight to the student is the first step in helping the student. This may mean the teacher has to rearrange their expectations and beliefs. All behavior, whether it is comprehensible to the teacher or not, persists because it is helpful in some way. It allows the students to survive in what they believe is an unsafe world. The presenter discussed the theory that if a child has an out lashing behavior towards you, the child either views you as a threat or views you with love and feels safe taking it out on you.

The second part of her seminar was about shifting the students' behavior by either creating a relationship with a student or building greater trust with a student whom trust already is established. While many of the thoughts presented were common sense and somewhat basic, it was a great opportunity to reflect on my personal situations with students and teachers. She was a highly engaging presenter and I have already reached out to Clayton to have her be considered as a presenter Alaska's State Sped Conference.


Patrick Mulick presented the second seminar. The biggest take-a-ways from this seminar were graphics and cheat sheets. I have already shared these with my staff and a couple of them went into immediate use in classrooms. He presented a student escalation scale in a graphic where staff could not only immediately take notes on the document, but it also was color coded with the color levels of an intervention sheet. The seminar also provided appropriate de-escalation strategies to test as a teacher creates a toolkit for each student. The final nugget from this seminar was the different types of positive reinforcement as well as the frequency of reinforcements.

Rebecca Moyes discussed how teachers and parents struggle with what to do with difficult behaviors. She touched upon people being afraid of punishing a student with an IEP for fear of a disability lawsuit.

She reinforced that certain behaviors are not permitted in a school setting regardless of the students' disability. I have fallen in this conversation many times. It was reassuring to hear it from a leading source in special education. She also shared information on getting to the root of behavior whether it be a skill deficit or specific student need. Behind every problem behavior is something to teach our students.

Finally, Zones of Regulation is a program that we have been using at Paul Banks for seven years. It was an incredible opportunity to hear firsthand from the author, Leah Kuypers, how to implement the curriculum. The presentation reassured me that our current practice of using the varying items has been appropriate. I also was able to tighten up some of my personal 'Zones' practice in my weekly lunch bunches.

Overall, I am incredibly grateful to partake in this career grant opportunity. The knowledge and items I took from the seminars could be implemented immediately into my classrooms. It took me seven years to take the district up on this opportunity. From here, forth I will be a champion of career grant opportunity. Thank you!



4-20-2020