

# Project PAPI

Paraprofessional Preparation for Improvement Program



## The Center on Inclusion and Early Childhood Care & Education

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The Center on Inclusion and Early Childhood Care & Education at the Teaching Research Institute (TRI), has been awarded a four year grant from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services of the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Patricia M. Blasco, Associate Research Professor, is principal investigator for this award which totals \$600,000.00 over 4 years. The **Paraprofessional Preparation for Improvement Program (PAPI)** project is a collaborative effort between TRI, the College of Education at Western Oregon University and four Oregon community colleges: Southwestern Oregon Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Portland Community College, and Blue Mountain Community College. The goal of PAPI is to improve the knowledge and skills of paraprofessionals currently working toward an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE) to work with young children with disabilities. Specifically, Project PAPI will provide technical assistance to community college instructors from these institutions to: 1) enhance existing coursework or develop needed coursework to increase knowledge and skills for working with young children with disabilities; and 2) infuse inclusion competencies into already existing ECE competencies and standards addressed by the program. The project will enhance the ability of TRI and the WOU College of Education to attract increased numbers of associate level students to the baccalaureate and graduate programs in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education.

Project PAPI builds on prior work and several current projects of the TRI Center on Inclusion and Early Childhood Care & Education. These include: *The Oregon Early Childhood Inclusion Collaborative (OECIC)* funded through Oregon Department of Education, project is a statewide effort to provide technical assistance to counties in order to improve the number of early childhood programs that serve children with disabilities. The *Partnering for Inclusive Childhood Care and Education (PICCE)* funded through Oregon Employment Division – Child Care Division offers support for curriculum specialists working to enhance the inclusion of children with disabilities in general education classrooms and *The Oregon Program of Quality (OPQ)*, the part of the state’s *Education and Quality Investment Partnership (EQUIP)* that is *working to develop a quality rating system for child care programs in Oregon*. For more information on the TRI Center on Inclusion and Early Childhood Care & Education visit [www.centeroninclusion.org](http://www.centeroninclusion.org).