Driving Innovation, Improving Outcomes: Special Education Research Raises Expectations for Individuals with Disabilities

June 12, 2012
Welcome!

• Dr. Margaret McLaughlin, CEC President

• Dr. George Sugai, University of Connecticut

• Dr. Erik Carter, Vanderbilt University

• Ms. Hannah Ehrli, 2012 CEC Teacher of the Year
Children & Youth with Disabilities

Through IDEA:

• **Over 1 Million** Infants, Toddlers, Pre-School Children with Disabilities are served

• **6.5 Million** students in Kindergarten – age 21 are served

Over **460,000** special educators & early interventionists nationwide
Children & Youth with Disabilities

• Early intervention works! 32% of children do not need special education services once in school;

• Students with disabilities spend more time in general education classrooms now, more than ever, increased achievement;

• More students attending 2 and 4 year college
Special Education Research

National Center for Special Education Research

– 1 of 4 Centers within Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education
– 260 grants in 37 states
– Research has made significant contributions to education field
Contributions of NCSER Include

• The **design and delivery of effective early reading** interventions that have had a major impact on the teaching of beginning reading, specifically for children who are struggling learners

• The **design of interventions** for increasing math literacy and math problem solving

• The **development of “learning strategies”** that teach students how to learn so that they can cope more effectively with the increased demands of textbooks and other content as they move from elementary to secondary schools

• The development of tools, strategies, technologies, and programs for **improving developmental outcomes** for young children with disabilities that include specific strategies for parents and caregivers

• Systemic approaches for **improving professional practice** and **preparation for educators**, and

• The creation of a reliable knowledge base upon which the special education **technical assistance systems** have been developed at the national, state, and local levels
Significant Challenges Exist

• Wide achievement gaps between students with and without disabilities

• Implementing the Common Core Standards

• Addressing drop out crisis
Investing in Special Education Research

Research in Special Education

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<th>Year</th>
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Council for Exceptional Children
The voice and vision of special education
Does Special Education Research Matter: Impact on Behavior Practice and Student Outcomes

Dr. George Sugai
University of Connecticut
Transition Matters: Connecting Youth with Disabilities to Work and Community Experiences

Erik Carter
Vanderbilt University
Hannah Ehrli
Special Educator
Orlando, Florida
2012 CEC Teacher of the Year