

WalkingtheWalk

Durham / Durham County Community Action Team (CAT)

Goals	Highlights of Progress
<p>GOAL 1: Build strong collaboration / ongoing communication among key community stakeholders and leaders related to diversity and personnel preparation, to develop stronger partnerships between community leaders and faculty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team members designed and held a successful one-day event (<i>Strengthening Cross Cultural Partnerships: A Multicultural Training Conference</i>) with national and local speakers on April 20, 2002. The program was designed to respond to the learning priorities of early childhood and early intervention personnel in the community. Displays reflected the programs and resources of Durham's campus and community partners. Participants particularly enjoyed the parent panel through which they received feedback from their "consumers." • Dina Walker DeVose and other members of the Durham CAT will present a paper describing the event's planning progress in Nashville at a conference for HBCUs in November 2002. • Team members continue to work toward co-teaching opportunities for campus (NCCU, Durham Tech) and community (ARC of Durham) partners. Some exchanges have already taken place, and more are planned. • Sheila Bridges (NCCU) received an \$800,000 grant from the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education to develop interdisciplinary training in early intervention based on the Walking the Walk partnerships model. Project outcomes will include a curriculum and interdisciplinary graduate training on early intervention and assistive technology. Courses will be team-taught by a core group of campus and community partners (e.g., the ARC, parents, faculty). • Conversations to improve access between Durham Tech and NCCU through existing articulation agreement have been held. Progress has been described as slow but steady. • Karenne Berry shared the Executive Summary of the Closing the Gap initiative (Durham Public Schools), and their goal of eliminating the achievement gap in five years. Closing the Gap could be partner for future Durham CAT efforts. • Jane Johnson-Chavis has provided training on aspects of diversity to a different group of community partners: children. She encouraged everyone to help kids think about diversity in all settings. She has many activities and books to share. • Betsy Ayankoya has been a key catalyst in efforts of NECTAC (the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center at FPG) to infuse diversity into their work and improve their own staff diversity. This model of organizational self-examination is one that other campus or community entities could use.
<p>GOAL 2: Increase the number of high quality early childhood practicum sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of possible practicum sites for future exploration and use is being developed.
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Next Steps</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team is thinking about planning an event next year: Modeling after Walking the Walk, the event would provide training for a smaller cohort [50 providers] by first immersing them in knowledge and then encouraging the providers to take this knowledge back to their centers. There will be monitoring and ongoing contact, including an established person who makes sure the providers have the resources they need. Through this process, community partners will be able to identify priorities for change (e.g., increasing staff comfort and skill in working with young children with significant disabilities), and participate in an ongoing sequence of supports toward achieving their goals. • There will be a continued focus in the coming year on full implementation of existing articulation agreements • A third effort will focus on developing additional quality community practicum sites (especially those practicing inclusion). 	