

# Walking the Walk

## Raleigh / Wake County Community Action Team (CAT)

Goals	Highlights of Progress
<p><b>GOAL 1: Develop a culturally, linguistically and ability-sensitive existing Early Intervention / Early Childhood workforce</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team members shared their plans with the Wake County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC). As a result, the LICC <b>adopted the team goals</b> as their own.</li> <li>• <b>Donna Spence</b> has tried to hire someone in early intervention who is linguistically diverse and / or a parent. She has had some difficulties with recruitment but is persevering.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 2: Develop cooperative agreement between the six institutions of higher learning in the Raleigh / Wake County community to address shared diversity priorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty from Shaw University, Meredith College and Wake Technical Community College <b>organized a joint meeting for their students.</b></li> <li>• With support from the Health and Human Services-funded Seedlings grant, <b>Meredith College and Shaw University have created shared learning opportunities for Shaw / Meredith students working on the Birth to Kindergarten (B-K) degree.</b> Students from both campuses took a course together this summer (at a non-campus community facility). This semester students are participating in a shared internship experiences.</li> <li>• Conversations among Meredith, Wake Tech and Shaw faculty have continued progress toward the possibility of <b>articulation agreements.</b></li> <li>• Patsy Pierce, with support and collaboration from team members, submitted a <b>grant proposal</b> ("Operation Enduring Education") to support faculty training institutes on cultural, linguistic and ability diversity and co-teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Ida Bailey</b> is piloting a course ("Education for the Global Village") for B-K students. If successful, her goal is to offer it as core requirement for Shaw's entire education department.</li> </ul>
<h3>Next Steps</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While both goals remain a priority for the team, they will <b>focus more on the needs of community practitioners</b> in the year to come. An area of particular interest/concern/need is preparation of the early childhood and early intervention workforce to work with the significantly increasing number of Hispanic/Latino children and families. Possible strategies for next steps include organizing a community conference to identify resources and needs and/or developing an action plan, using strategies that proved effective for the Los Niños project in Orange County.</li> <li>• Team members concurred that they need to encourage bilingual individuals to pursue careers in early childhood and early intervention. The need for bilingual speech-language pathologists is especially significant.</li> </ul>	