

PEEAK

PREPARING EARLY EDUCATORS  
IN APPALACHIAN KENTUCKY

*MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY*

Advisory  
Meeting  
February 27,  
2015

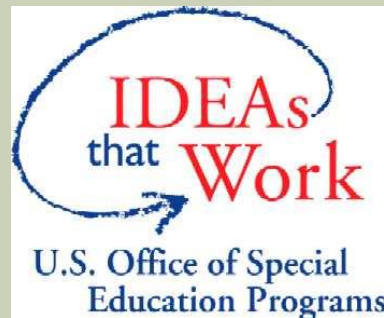
# ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- **Elizabeth McLaren (Co-Project Director on PEEAK)**
  - e.mclaren@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2537
- **Julie Rutland (Co-Project Director on PEEAK)**
  - j.rutland@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2598
- **Stephanie Akers (Project Coordinator on PEEAK)**
  - s.akers@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2896
  
- **Pam Mattox (First Steps - Developmental Intervention)**
- **Tammie Isenberg (First Steps - Part C Assistant Coordinator)**
- **Patricia Collins (Pike County Head Start/Preschool)**
- **Anna Shepherd (Floyd County Preschool)**
- **Shirley Anderson (Rowan County Preschool)**
- **Kelli Prater (Boyd County Head Start/Preschool)**
- **Tilda Abshire (former MAT student, current teacher in Pike County Preschool)**
- **Shannon Hankins (Ashland Regional Training Center)**
- **Annie Rooney-French (Kentucky Department of Education)**

# FEDERALLY-FUNDED PERSONNEL PREPARATION GRANT

Preparing Early Educators in Appalachian Kentucky (PEEAK):

- Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
- 5 year personnel preparation grant
- Beginning in January 2015
  
- Purpose – to prepare highly qualified early childhood special educators (IECE certified teachers) and early interventionists, especially those who will serve in Eastern KY



# STUDENT FUNDING



- 35+ students will be funded for the IECE MAT program over 5 years
  - Tuition for all courses in Morehead State University's IECE MAT program
  - Book stipend (up to \$300 per year)
  - Travel stipend (up to \$400 per year)
  - Technology stipend (\$35 to pay for webcam for online courses)
- For students enrolled in MAT and eligible for Traineeship funding (public preschool teachers) it is required that they apply for and use Traineeship funding first – then PEEAK provides any additional funding needed
- Undergraduate students, graduate students in the Teacher Leader program, and graduate students in other MAT programs (non-IECE) are not eligible
- If we have more applicants than funding, we use criteria related to high-need areas and potential to enter the workforce to determine awarding funds

# SERVICE OBLIGATION

- For every academic year of funding provided under PEEAK, scholars are required to provide “full-time equivalent” 2 years of service
  - MAT program is designed to take 2-2.5 years to complete so the average scholar will “owe” 4-5 years of service in the ECSE/EI field
  - We need assistance from First Steps determining the “full-time” equivalent for DI’s in a rural region

# SERVICE OBLIGATION (CONT)

- Service obligation may be fulfilled
  - At least 51 percent of the infants, toddlers, and children to whom the individual provides services are receiving special education, related services, or early intervention services from the individual; or
  - The individual spends at least 51 percent of his or her time providing special education, related services, or early intervention services to infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities; and
  - If the position involves supervision including in the capacity of a principal, teaching at the postsecondary level, research, policy, technical assistance, program development, or administration, the individual spends at least 51 percent of his or her time performing work related to the training for which a scholarship was received

# OVERVIEW OF GRANT ACTIVITIES

- Provide financial assistance for students enrolled in the IECE MAT program to increase a highly-qualified workforce
- Collect data on effectiveness of program to prepare effective ECSE/EI personnel
  - Pre-post data on knowledge related to IECE
  - Pre-post data (as applicable) using ECERS and CLASS for scholars already teaching
- Collect data on effectiveness of program to increase workforce in high-need areas (e.g., Eastern KY)
  - Data on scholars employed in IECE field post-graduation
- Collect data on effectiveness of ECSE/EI personnel once in the workforce
  - ECERS & CLASS (teachers); Family-Centered Practices Checklist (DIs); child data (all)

# CURRENT STATUS

- Getting ourselves organized 😊
- Two scholars funded for Spring 2015
- We have funding for 10 new scholars this budget period (prior to Jan 2016)
- Advertising, enrolling, and advising new students
- Data collectors currently training for ECERS and CLASS observations
  - Pam Mattox
  - Donna Stamper





## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Feedback on what encourages teachers to enter and remain in ECSE/EI workforce, especially in high-need areas.
  
- Advertise the program to potential scholars!
  - You should have received an email with the application/informational packet.
  - Please give us feedback on ways to advertise and help us distribute information far and wide!

# PLEASE...CONTACT US WITH SUGGESTIONS OR QUESTIONS

Julie Rutland

j.rutland@moreheadstate.edu  
606-783-2598

Elizabeth McLaren

e.mclaren@moreheadstate.edu  
606-783-2537

Stephanie Akers

s.akers@moreheadstate.edu or 606-  
783-2896

