

## NCLII-2 PARTNERS WITH AIR AND NCII TO HOST POLICY-FOCUSED SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

This past March, NCLII-2 teamed up with American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the National Center for Intensive Intervention (NCII) to host a 2-day policy-focused meeting at the AIR offices in Arlington, VA. The first day of the seminar included a series of presentations and panels featuring federal agency funders, policy and research organizations, advocacy groups, and researchers engaged in policy-related work. The morning began with a virtual presentation by Tammy Kolbe, principal researcher at AIR, titled, *“More Money is Not Enough- The Case for Reconsidering Federal Special Education Funding Formulas.”* Specifically, the talk centered on the formula that is used to allocate available federal dollars among states for special education and that represents policy makers’ intent to equalize educational opportunities for students with disabilities nationwide. Dr. Kolbe’s talk was followed by a panel that addressed the work of research organizations, specifically addressing the types of project work, organizational structures, and the ways that research organizations interact with faculty, other researchers, and policymakers; panelists included representatives from AIR, WestEd, and Instructional Research Group.



The afternoon agenda consisted of brief remarks from OSEP Director Larry Wexler as well as presentations from Jill Pentimonti, Director of Research Advancement at the University of Notre Dame (*What is the Role of a Federal Liaison?*), Lynn Fuchs (*Building a Research Program*), Doug Fuchs (*What Should Researchers Do When Their Findings Contradict Important Policies and Practices? An Infrequently Discussed Aspect of the Gap between Research and Practice.*) Scholars also participated in small group rotations that provided information on the various ways scholars can enhance their doctoral training programs – these rotations specifically discussed participating in internships, building research relationships, enhancing university teaching, leveraging NCII and PROGRESS resources, and securing research funding. The day concluded with a panel session that explored the work of professional and advocacy organizations. Panelists included Kaitlyn Brennan (TED, HECSE), Kuna Tavalin (CEC), and Laurie VanderPloeg (CEC, former Director of OSEP).



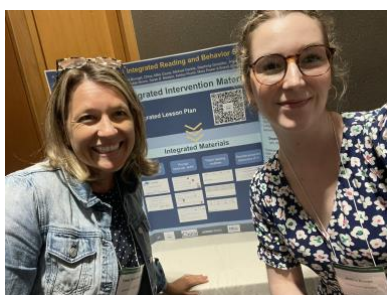
The second day began with a conversation with OSEP Deputy Director David Cantrell, who provided an overview of current OSEP priorities and discussed future directions. This was followed by a presentation titled “Using Federal Data to Facilitate Research on Students with Disabilities”; during this talk, the Research to Practice Data Team of OSEP provided a demonstration using the department’s open data platform to show how researchers can access the data via CSV state level data files, topic-specific Excel tables broken out by collections and subgroups, Fast Facts infographics, and state and national level highlight reports. Finally,

the meeting concluded with a discussion on the historical landscape of special education and current issues in special education policy and law; this discussion was led by Lou Danielson (retired, AIR) and David Bateman (AIR).

In a post-meeting evaluation, participating scholars and faculty rated the meeting highly. One scholar remarked, *“Hearing about the many different career paths that people take and how a career is not linear was beneficial to learn.”* Another stated, *“It was illuminating and highly beneficial to hear from the invited panelists and speakers who are involved in policy work. They provided unique insight into systems that I haven’t spent enough time thinking about and has inspired me to be more mindful of policy and funding considerations as I plan a research career.”* We want to extend a special “thank you” to Caitlyn Majeika (AIR, graduated NCLII-1 scholar) for her hard work in planning a meaningful agenda and to current scholar Elizabeth Zagata in facilitating and providing introductions to several of the presentations.

## NCLII-2 Participates in OSEP Project Directors Meeting

This year's OSEP Project Directors Meeting took place on July 24-27, 2023 in Washington, DC. A total of 14 NCLII-2 scholars attended the meeting while 12 of those scholars presented – either in poster sessions or in micro-solo presentations. In addition, NCLII-2 Director Joe Wehby participated in a cross-consortia panel titled “The Consortium Approach to Doctoral Training: Lessons Learned”; specifically, this session provided updates from the three OSEP-funded consortia that are training leaders in the field of special education [NCLII-2, the Early Childhood Intervention Doctoral Consortium (EDIDC), and the Multi-Institution Adapted Physical Activity Mentorship Consortium (MAMC)]. Faculty provided a brief overview of each project and addressed themes of common curricula, collaborative experiences, and evaluation approaches to measure scholar progress. Photos from the meeting are included below!



Scholars Tobey Duble Moore and Jessica Bourget at their poster session on Tier 1 Integrated Reading and Behavior Supports, a project involving 3 current scholars and 2 NCLII-2 faculty



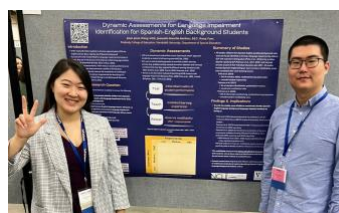
Scholar Elizabeth Zagata gives a micro-solo presentation on “Teacher Preparation for Dispute Resolution: Supportive Steps to Take.”



Scholars Tessa Arsenault and Danielle Lariviere presenting on “A Synthesis of Mathematics Fact-Fluency Interventions for Students With Mathematics Difficulty”

## NCLII-2 SCHOLARS HIT THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

Our scholars have been making the rounds at a number of other conferences this year as well. We are proud of their hard work and meaningful contributions to the field of special education!



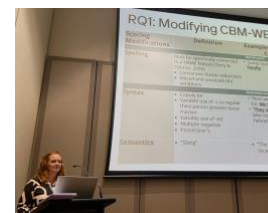
Scholar Jiaxin Wang, “Dynamic Assessments for Language Impairment Identification for Spanish-English Background Students,” CEC



Scholar Vishakha Agrawal, “Predictors of Word Problem Solving in Kindergarten Students At-risk for Math Disability,” PCRC



Scholar Jess Boyle, “Using Natural Language Processing Technology to Provide Teachers With Automated Feedback on Tier 1 Classroom Management Practices,” CEC



Scholar Lindy Johnson, “How to Adjust Curriculum-based Measurement Rules for Dialect Variation,” Society for the Scientific Study of Reading Conference, Australia

## COMING SOON!

- **NCLII-2 Fall Meeting:** September 27-28, 2023 at the University of Illinois at Chicago
- Our Cohort 2 scholars have created masters-level CLBD (complex learning and behavior disorders) instructional courses. They are currently under review. Information about how to access the courses will be posted to the NCLII-2 website once finalized.