



Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities

Promoting Membership in School, Work and Community

Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908-1991

401•456-8072 voice
401•456-8150 fax
401•456-8773 TDD
Website: www.sherlockcenter.org

Opportunity

Certification as Special Educator of Children with Severe Disabilities

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College and the Rhode Island Department of Education Office of Diverse Learners has created an opportunity for public school teachers to pursue certification as a **Special Educator of Children with Severe Disabilities**. A recently funded Personnel Preparation Grant (obtained by the Sherlock Center) will provide partial tuition support for a cohort of teachers. The Sherlock Center is providing instruction, onsite technical assistance, and other resources.

A list of requirements needed to obtain this certificate is included. Teachers who are already certified as Special Educators of Children with Mild/Moderate Disabilities typically need an additional 4 courses and a supervised internship experience. The four courses that are absolute requirements are

- **Special Education 435 (4 credits) - Assessment, Curriculum, Methods for Young Children with Severe Disabilities**
- **Special Education 436 (4 credits) – Assessment, Curriculum, Methods for Adolescents and Young Adults with Severe Disabilities**
- **Special Education 526 (3 credits) – Assessment, Curriculum, Methods for Children with Multiple Disabilities**
- **Special Education 520 (3 credits) – Education of Youth and Young Adults with Severe Disabilities in Non School Settings.**

Dr. Tony Antosh, Director of the Sherlock Center and Professor of Special Education, will assist each participant in analyzing his/her needs and developing a plan for achieving certification as a **Special Educator of Children with Severe Disabilities** in an efficient manner.

Who are Children with Severe Disabilities?

The term “severe disabilities” has its origin in the field of Mental Retardation. As currently used, the term refers to those children who have significant challenges in meeting the adaptive behavior expectations for their age and culture and who require extensive supports to participate in the curricular and life opportunities in which other children participate. The term is a non-categorical term that refers to degree of disability rather than type of disability. The categories of children with disabilities that are typically included in this population are: (a) children who have severe or profound mental retardation; (b) children who have multiple disabilities – e.g., children who are deaf-blind, children who have a significant physical disability in addition to severe cognitive impairments, and others; (c) children at the most severe end of the Autism Spectrum; and (d) children who are medically fragile and have significant cognitive impairments.



Your Resource in Assisting People with Disabilities

• Research • Professional Development • Training • Information • Technical Assistance •

Requirements and Schedule

Special Education 435 (4 credits):

This course describes the learning characteristics of the population and the research based practices that have been demonstrated to be effective. It provides instruction in design and implementation of augmentative communication systems, cognitive and ecological structures, instructional methods, alternate assessment, and other topics.

Special Education 436 (4 credits):

This course focuses on design of curriculum that is both standards driven and community referenced. Other topics include positive behavioral supports, family centered practice, transition, supported employment, post school outcomes, etc.

Special Education 526 (3 credits):

This course focuses on instructional methodology and curriculum design for students who have multiple disabilities – e.g., students with deaf-blindness, students with physical impairments, and others. Topics include augmentative communicational, functional vision and hearing, positioning and handling, adaptive equipments, etc.

Special Education 520 (3 credits):

This course provides an overview of the services and supports available to adults with severe disabilities including residential options, employment supports, transportation supports, leisure, and other. This course focuses heavily on implementing effective transition activities.

Instructors

The primary instructors for these courses will be **Dr. Tony Antosh**. He will be assisted by Dr. Sue Dell and by a variety of other practitioners who will provide both in class and onsite instruction pertinent to the topics mentioned the course descriptions.

Schedule and Location:

The teachers participating in this certification program will take all of these courses as a cohort. With the exception of the first two meetings, all of the meetings will occur at the participants' schools. Participants will meet from 4:00 – 8:00 P.M. on Thursday nights from November through the end of the school year (excluding school vacations). Participants will continue to meet one afternoon or evening per week (as determined by the participants) throughout the summer.

The first three sessions will be at Rhode Island College on November 5, 12, 19. Confirmation of registration and room location will be provided by October 27, 2009

Tony Antosh
aantosh@ric.edu

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Enrollment will be limited to **twenty** participants.

Interested participants **MUST**

- be certified as Special Educators of Children with Mild/Moderate Disabilities;
- be employed by a **public school district**; and
- have daily contact with students with severe disabilities – this is the only way to fulfill the practicum assignments that are part of this program.

Interested participants should return (a) a letter explaining your interest in participating; (b) documentation that you meet the three criteria listed above; and (c) the attached registration form no later than October 23, 2009.

This information is available on the Sherlock Center website at www.sherlockcenter.org.

Cost:

As stated earlier, the cost of tuition and fees for participants will be partially supported by a Personnel Preparation Grant. The actual cost for the four courses described above is \$5200. Participants will be expected to contribute a portion of that amount.

October 23, 2009	\$400	Partial Tuition for Special Education 435
May 1, 2010	\$400	Partial Tuition for Special Education 436
July 1, 2010	\$200	Partial Tuition for Special Education 520, 526.

**Remember, registration deadline is
October 23, 2009**

**Certification as Special Educator of Children with Severe Disabilities
Registration Form 2009/2010**

Due to the reduced fee for these courses, registration is handled through the Sherlock Center on Disabilities @ RI College. **DO NOT REGISTER THROUGH RIConnect.** The Sherlock Center on Disabilities will register you with RI College for the 4 required courses as they are offered between fall 2009 and summer 2010. **Grades and transcripts will be issued through the typical RI College process and timeframes.**

Submit this form along with a letter of interest, documentation of employment and certification (as indicated in the registration packet), and \$400 payment for the first course.

Confirmation of registration and first class location will be provided by email.

previously taken a course at RI College

Date of Birth: _____

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____ **MI:** _____

SSN: _____ **Gender:** Male Female

Ethnicity (Circle):

American Indian/Alaska Native Asian Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
Black/African American Hispanic/Latino White Other/Not Specified

Marital Status: Married Single

US Citizen: Yes No

Degree: Undergraduate (Do not possess a 4 year degree) Graduate (Already have a 4 year degree)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ **Cell Phone:** (____) _____

E-mail: _____ (will be used to confirm registration)

Current School: _____ **District:** _____

Letter of interest is enclosed Documentation of employment and certification is enclosed*

*Must be currently employed by a RI School District

Payment & Registration:

Registration is due by **October 23, 2009**. Mail or deliver your registration materials to the Sherlock Center, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence RI 02908-1991. The Sherlock Center is open from 9:00 – 4:00, Monday – Friday. Call for (401) 456-8072 for directions.

For registration questions, call Elaine Sollecito, (401) 456-2764 or email at esollecito@ric.edu. For questions regarding course requirements, email Tony Antosh at aantosh@ric.edu.

Make checks payable to: Sherlock Center/Rhode Island College

Check one:

Payment of \$400 is enclosed (check or money order only)

Purchase Order for \$400 is enclosed PO#: _____

