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Jessica Nerren TSSA Fall 2018

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TSSA Grant recipient Spring 2018
Final One Page Report of Activities

When applying for the TSSA grant, I was interested in attending the Lilly Conference with the goal of further developing my active learning strategies for diverse learners, however, due to the timing of the grant dispersal, I wound up going another route which wound up being of great value to both myself and I feel, for my learners in my classes.

I attended the CalABA Annual Behavior Analyst conference and attended every presentation on pedagogy and higher education, and also presented about inclusion and effective communication and conflict resolution in educational settings myself. Having already been an active member of the CalABA stakeholder committee, I found myself invited into the CalABA diversity special interest group, a second committee position with the organization because of my participation at the event.

My findings and how it will influence my teaching are as follows:

Narrow: Unique learners like individuals with autism and other individuals who are or have received supports including ABA many times according to the behavioral model need tasks broken down into the smallest possible elements. There are effective teaching strategies I have employed for my identified students in my classrooms based on the use of this model and they have been supported by SSD.

Broad: Universal design would then dictate that breaking tasks into smaller steps might be able to be examined as a strategy for all students, thereby engaging all students in this classroom task design in a way that includes everyone to a greater degree and fosters student success for each student with and without disability without further accommodations needed. There were also panels on speaking to classrooms that were incredibly useful behavior analysis, with data supporting that common speech in the class setting rather than formal speech actually results in greater absorption of the materials with large data pools as evidence, something I have practiced for quite some time with similar anecdotal effects.

Industry: The ABA profession is very unique in the sense that it serves a population in interpersonal and sometimes hazardous or high conflict work environments producing a tremendous amount of workplace stress, while also working to serve behavioral, developmental and educational learning objectives. There is a welcome opportunity for our field to overlap with theirs and the presentation was met with great reception.

Institutionally: In the higher ed panels there was great discussion about broad candidate searches but without considering that diversity includes many elements including broader candidate searches for those with and without disability. That maybe, some recipients of ABA today, may become thriving higher ed professionals in the. There is an opportunity for greater student success when all people are considered and outreached to for qualified roles.

I thank the TRC and the TSSA grant for the opportunity to be a part of the grant and their investment in me has impacted my teaching in the classroom a great deal.