WELCOME TO THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

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Required Text:
Exceptional Children: An Introduction to Special Education, 12th edition
William L. Heward, Sheila R. Alber-Morgan, Moira Konrad
ISBN-13: 9780135756522

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the study of children characterized by various disability groups and the gifted. Emphasis is placed upon social-psychological and educational perspectives.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will gain a foundational understanding of special education as it relates to purpose, legislation, practice, learning styles, and cultural perspectives.
2. Students will be able to describe the history, evolution, and trends relating to the perspective of disability and services.
3. Students will recognize the importance of collaboration in special education as well as the various roles involved in a team working with exceptional students.
4. Students will analyze the risk and protective factors regarding the identification and labeling of exceptionalities.
5. Students will identify characteristics of exceptional learners, differentiate instructional strategies, and techniques appropriate for various exceptionalities.
6. Students will apply course content to engage in intellectual discussion on the complexities of special education and intervention for individual exceptional students.
7. Students will acknowledge empathetic practice and engage in receptive listening skills when debating on the controversies in special education including personal philosophies, legislation, and best practices for various exceptionalities.
8. Students will evaluate special education interventions with thoughtful consideration of cultural background and family goals in addition to social, intellectual, and academic characteristics associated with particular disability areas.
9. Students will develop ideas on the creative methods of implementing course content in realistic special education settings.

About the Professor

I began my academic journey at Dutchess Community College. I had the wonderful opportunity to take DCC classes in high school. I transferred from Dutchess to Marist University and graduated with my bachelor's in Psychology with a focus on Neuropsychology. I attended Columbia University Teachers College for my Masters in the Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, an interdisciplinary program that includes perspectives of psychology, linguistics, child development, technology, and pedagogy to address the multifaceted needs of students.

I have taught at Marist since fall 2023. I love teaching and the opportunity to be involved in fostering growth and creativity. I am constantly learning something new as there's always a new perspective or connection to the material that a student will bring into the classroom. I love the novelty of it all!

Outside of Marist, I am an Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I work with children in Early Intervention and K-12. My role as a related-service provider blurs the lines between practitioner and educator. I am passionate about multisensory and holistic approaches to intervention. I love creating a space for my students to feel excited to learn and grow.

When I'm not teaching, I love trying coffeeshops in coastal cities, explorinn interactive museums, creatively writing, or attempting to learn something new!