



December 15, 2016

To: Special Education Directors/Supervisors/Coordinators
From: Michael Norman, Director – Collaborative for Students with Unique Communication Needs

I am pleased to invite your participation in a new professional development program regarding best practice management of students with unique communication needs. Recently the Louisiana Department of Education awarded the Human Development Center within LSU Health New Orleans a grant to establish and execute a technical assistance program designed to train school personnel regarding two student populations: preschool (ages 3-6 years) students with cochlear implants and students of all ages with complex communication needs who do not have a formal communication system. The training model is built around Family Centered Interdisciplinary care.

The project will train teams made up of school district personnel including a special education teacher, a general education teacher, a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, a para-professional, a motor expert (PT, OT, or APE) and parents. The teams will be joined by a staff member from your LATI regional office. The two day training will encompass information regarding statutes and regulations, normal communication development, communication development in special populations, evaluation, device selection & implementation, and IEP development embracing best practice methodology. Following the training the district team will continue their work by implementing a designed IEP with coaching provided by one of the project faculty. In addition to the training, teams will be invited to attend an annual communication institute (CONNECTIONS 2017) to be held in August 2017.

Several incentives have been built into the Project to encourage district participation. These include; training within your geographic region, access to online professional development materials, recommended instructional resources/technology kits and travel stipends for participants.

To register your district to participate in this project, please complete the enclosed Participation Agreement and email, fax, or mail to the address below. Should you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael C. Norman
Director