

Winter 2018 Teaching Skills Study Award Report

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NAME of CONFERENCE:

35th Annual Cal-TASH (The Association for the Severely Handicapped, now The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps) Convention was held in Sacramento, CA, March 1-3, 2018.

<https://cal-tash.squarespace.com/2018-conference/>

TEACHING STRATEGY OR METHOD studied in the conference:

The Cal-TASH conference has offered one of the best practical programs and training sessions for special educators who serve students with moderate-to-severe disabilities. I learned how to utilize alternative assessment methods and community-based inclusive education for students with moderate-to-severe disabilities by attending the following sessions:

- How to measure the needs of users for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC);
- Increasing inclusive practices through learning center models;
- Sharing unique ways to engage technology to further independence;
- How to co-plan, co-teach, and co-assess in an inclusive Elementary classroom;
- How to increase self-care independence for students with chronic health conditions through the development of collaborative Individualized Education Program(IEP) goals;
- Strategies on embedding interventions to support the optimal learning for children with disabilities in a preschool program; and
- Research-based transition practices that are effective for post-secondary students with disabilities

IMPACT on Current Teaching (How was this info applied?)

The strategies and practices I have learned from the conference directly have impacted on *ESPE611 Assessment Methods in Special Education*. I was able to (1) enhance my teaching skills related to developing the curriculum for alternative assessment methods and community-based inclusive education and (2) expand my knowledge of current effective teaching methods/strategies in the field of special education. My teaching techniques and skills were refined by learning alternative assessment methods, community-based inclusive instruction, AAC for English learners, and increasing Common Core State Standards(CCSS) accessibility for students with disabilities. I was also able to develop innovative teaching and learning methods that integrate Web-based activities into the course of *Assessment Methods in Special Education*. Attending training sessions provided by the Cal-TASH conference (1) assisted me to develop on-line curricular activities, (2) allowed me to encourage students to be critical thinker, effective problem-solvers, and self-regulated learners, and (3) enhanced my strategies for teaching multicultural classes and collaborative learning.

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