

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Newsletter of the Office of Grants and Program Review

September 2004

UTC Provides Early Intervention Services for Special Needs Children

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Each year, thousands of children with special needs are born in Tennessee. These children face an array of conditions, symptoms, diagnoses and prognoses. Their families also face an array of challenges: trying to understand what their child is facing, learning to work effectively with medical professionals, ensuring proper care and providing enriching home environments while managing a household. This situation can be extremely burdensome on families of children with special needs. While birth through 3 years old can be among the most stressful times for families, it is also the most crucial stage of development for children. Recognizing the need for services to support children with special needs and their families, the state of Tennessee operates Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS).

TEIS is a federally supported program that serves children with special needs, from birth to three years of age, and their families. Administered by the Tennessee Department of Education, TEIS operates a statewide network of nine district-level "points of entry." The services are provided at no cost to eligible families and a statewide

toll-free number is set up to assist those seeking services. According to Tennessee's 2003 Child Count, 4,215 families across the state received support from the early intervention system.

The Southeast District of TEIS is housed in UTC's College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies. This year, Mr. David Baker, Project Director for the Southeast District, received \$1,326,808 from the Tennessee Department of Education to continue services in our region. Mr. Baker and TEIS staff exemplify TEIS' focus on providing "family centered intervention," which bases a child's individual intervention program around the family's needs and preferences. UTC-based TEIS staff support Southeast Tennessee families throughout the early intervention period and help them transition to other community-based services when the child reaches three years of age. Not only do TEIS staff refer children with special needs to other facilities in the area, but they also educate families and communities about the specific needs of their children.

When a TEIS staff member recommends that a child receive a developmental screening, the family completes a multidisciplinary evaluation for eligibility and a family priority assessment. Once the screening process is complete, an

IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan) is developed to meet the child's and family's individual needs. This document explains the child's current level of development, outlines a plan to enhance development, and documents the family's needs, resources, and concerns. The IFSP is reviewed every six months and rewritten each year, to ensure that the child's changing needs are met.

Once this plan is approved by the family and TEIS team members, the service coordinator directs the family to appropriate medical and service providers and other advocacy services. A wide range of these services are available in a number of settings including situations where children without disabilities participate.

TEIS ensures that all young children with disabilities are afforded the same opportunities as their peers for developmental and educational progress. In Southeast Tennessee, Mr. Baker and the TEIS staff give children with special needs and their families hope for the future.

If you know someone who might benefit from early intervention services, encourage them to contact TEIS today by calling 1-800-852-7157.

FUNDED GRANTS AND RESEARCH

September 2004

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DRS. SEAN RICHARDS & PEGGY KOVACH

National Institutes of Health	PAH/Metal Exposure and Effects Assessment in Chattanooga	\$178,826
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DR. PEGGY KOVACH

National Institutes of Health	Molecular Pathology of Deafness Due to Mutation in PMP22	\$189,609
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DR. ROBERT KELLER

U.S. Geological Survey	Continuation of NBII Pilot Study on Tennessee River Gorge	\$180,740
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DRS. DEBORAH ARFKEN, DAVID EDWARDS, STEPHANIE BELLAR

U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development	Community Development Work Study Program Fellowships at UTC 2004-2006	\$90,000
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DRS. DAVID ROSS & RICH METZGER

United Way of Chattanooga	Evaluation Technical Assistance	\$14,310
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DR. BARBARA MEDLEY

City of Chattanooga	Fourth through Eighth 311 Customer Satisfaction Surveys	\$8,985
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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

DR. RICK KEYSER

TN Bd of Arch & Engr Examiners	Industrial Engineering Laboratory Equipment	\$13,668
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SIMCENTER

U.S. Dept. of Energy	The University of Tennessee Climate Change Research Initiative	\$725,000
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COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MS. SANDY COLE

TN Commission on Children & Youth	The Alliance for Reaching Kids (The ARK)	\$40,000
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DR. LARRY GARRISON

Public Education Foundation	Osborne Fellows Program 2004-2005	\$200,074
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DR. HUNTER HUCKABAY

U.S. Dept. of Education	Gear Up I 2004-2005 year 6	\$322,926
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DR. LINDA CUNDIFF

TN Bd of Arch & Engr Examiners	Computer Equipment for the Interior Design Program	\$2,451
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ADMINISTRATIVE

DR. KAREN ADSIT

Educause	Jane N. Ryland Fellowship for Educause Annual Conference	\$1,500
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DR. JOHN MCCORMACK

U.S. Dept. of Commerce/PTFP	Acquisition of Digital Audio Equipment for WUTC	\$10,120
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