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## CONNECT Modules: Video Clip Whets Student Appetite for More

**Inclusion is a civil rights issue. Do others have strategies for engaging learners in discussions of inclusion laws and policies?**



by Pam Winton

A community college instructor recently shared that she used the CONNECT Foundations for Early Childhood Inclusion video in her college class to introduce her students to the “big ideas” on the topic of inclusion. To her surprise, some of the students didn’t know that in the not so distant past children with disabilities were excluded from school. They had no idea about the battles that were fought by parents of children with disabilities and advocates to obtain access to education. The video whetted their appetite for more information about Jay Turnbull (featured in the video), and about current rights and laws on inclusion. They were interested to learn that as teachers they have certain rights related to inclusion.

I was able to share information with the community college instructor about an upcoming pilot study of the CONNECT module on embedded interventions which includes information on teachers’ rights for support in implementing inclusion. I also was able to provide a link to an NPR interview with Dr. Ann Turnbull whose account of those days of exclusion is featured on the CONNECT Foundations video.

### Community Question

Inclusion is a civil rights issue. Do others have strategies for engaging learners in discussions of inclusion laws and policies?

Add Comment

### Student Interest

It is hard to believe that the fall semester is almost over. My head is spinning. I was lucky enough to use the Connect module on inclusion. It help to set the stage for further learning and peak the student's interest on Luke. The students in this course have demonstrated a lot of growth this semester. Through our discussions it is clear the Luke's story, field trips and completing a service learning project helped the students to gain an understanding of the challenges a classified student may face. I am

beginning to see a passion for working with students with identified needs. Thank you Connect for your help.

Lisa

Reply

## Student Interest

Thanks Lisa for your positive comment. Sounds like involving the students in a real life inclusion dilemma was a helpful part of their learning about the practice of embedded interventions. You mentioned a service learning project. Is that an activity that might be included in the CONNECT module on embedded interventions? Or something you might describe here for other faculty?

Thanks

Reply

## Service Learning

Pam,

Let me tell you about service learning... Students in my intro class are required to volunteer for 5 hours during the semester at a agency or organization that works with children with special needs. Students have volunteered at the riding center, ARC, Career Opportunities and classrooms. In the beginning they are overwhelmed with the idea of fitting in the 5 hours. After they complete the assignment there attitude changes and almost all of the students find the experience informative and helpful in understanding students with special needs. The students also complete a reflection paper on their experiences.

Lisa

Reply

## Service Learning

Sounds like a winning situation for everyone involved. Thanks for sharing.

pam

Reply