

Date: June 6, 2012

To: Institute Partners

From: Pam Winton and Shelley deFosset

Subject: Summary Report for FPG 2012 National Inclusion Institute

The **National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute** has become the premier educational opportunity for anyone involved in the care and education of young children with special needs in inclusive settings. For 12 years, the Institute has drawn people from around the country and from foreign countries to Chapel Hill to:

- learn about the latest research findings, models, and resources to guide inclusive policy, professional development and practice;
- develop collaborative relationships and cross-agency systems to support early childhood inclusion; and
- have the opportunity to meet, learn from and problem solve with peers.

Frank Porter Graham (FPG) Child Development Institute and NECTAC, an FPG project funded by U.S. Department of Education, OSEP, are the major sponsors and organizers of the Institute.

The 2012 Institute was held May 15-18 in Chapel Hill, NC. We were fortunate to get support from you, our Partners and advisors, which was critically important to the success of the Institute. This quote on the 2012 evaluation survey from a participant speaks volumes about the powerful role you all played as both presenters and participants in the Institute.

“The thing that impressed me most about the conference was that you took the time and money to have the "actual" authors or researchers from the projects presenting. It was not someone talking about someone else's work. Also, that great learning and collaboration was modeled by your presenters. There is nothing more powerful than a great model. In one session the presenters were presenting and leading us through discovery and discussion, and in the very next session they were sitting in the chairs next to participants, modeling discovery, connections, and continual growth. This is by far the most impressive conference I have been to. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to providing evidence based practices in such a meaningful way.”

This report provides a summary of Institute evaluation data.

Partners:

Fourteen national TA projects committed time and resources to planning and implementing the Institute. Seven of those projects are funded by U.S. Department of Education, OSEP¹, and seven are funded or recognized as a Center of Excellence by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, ACF².

Participants:

The Institute had a total of 435 registrants, which was a record high. The breakout of the roles and sectors are seen in the charts below:

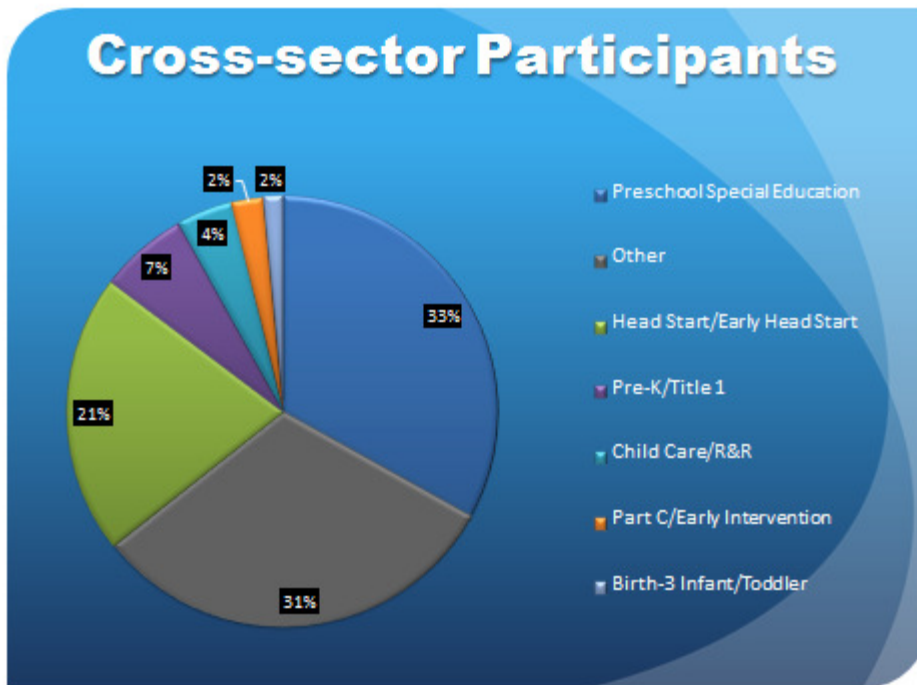


Figure 1. Percentage of participants representing one of seven sectors

As illustrated in Figure 1, the Institute attracted attendees from multiple sectors. The sector with the greatest number of participants was preschool special education (33%); however, the combination of Head Start, child care, and Title I/pre-k represented an almost equal percentage of participants (32%), meaning that there was a balance between special and regular education attendees. Changes in sector representation from 2011 to 2012 were evident when comparing

¹ National Professional Development Center – Autism Spectrum Disorder (NPDC-ASD), National Professional Development Center on Inclusion (NPDCI), Center to Mobilize Early Childhood Knowledge (CONNECT), Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL), TA Center on Social Emotional Intervention (TACSEI), State Implementation & Scaling up of Evidence-Based Practices (SISIP), and National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness.

² National Center on Quality Teaching & Learning (NCQTL), Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL), National Center on Child Care Professional Development Systems and Workforce Initiatives, The National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness, the Head Start Center on Inclusion, and Family Infant & Preschool Program (FIPP). Additional partners were the Aiken Foundation’s National Inclusion Project and NC-aeyc.

these data with 2011 Institute data. The percentage of Head Start attendees increased in 2012 (21% compared to 14% in 2011), and the number of early intervention and infant/toddler representatives decreased (4% compared to 20% in 2011). The relatively large number of participants (31%) who selected “Other” as their response option is because of the increased number of faculty attendees in 2012. IHE needs to be included as a response option on next year’s demographic form.

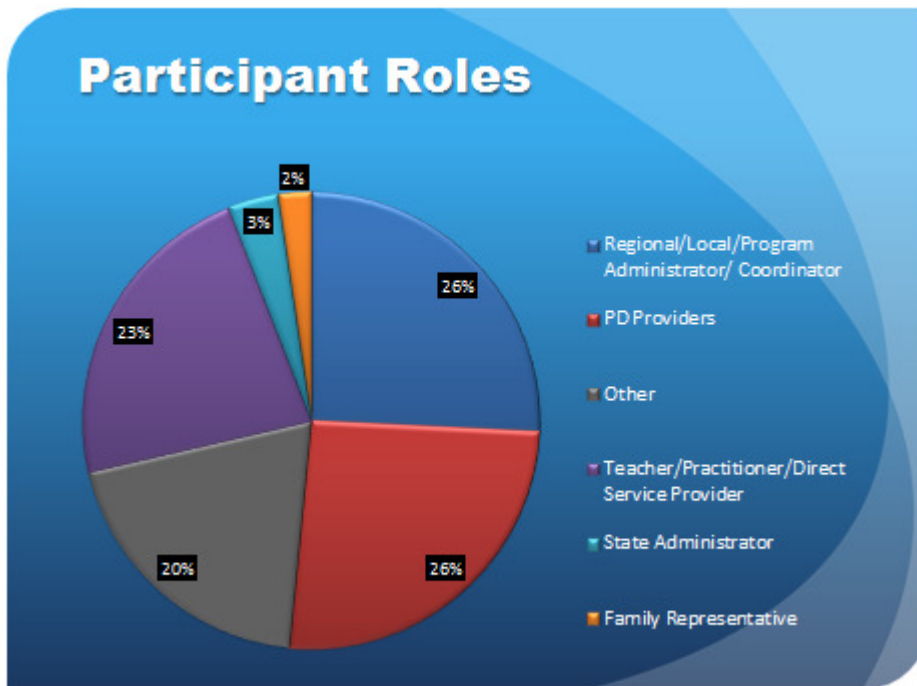


Figure 2. Percentage of participants representing one of six roles

A little over 50% of the participants were either in the role of PD provider/faculty (26%) or Regional/local program administrator/coordinator (26%), which continues the tradition of the Institute attracting early childhood leadership. A slightly smaller number of participants were practitioners (23%).

Participant Ratings of Institute:

The Institute consisted of a keynote panel of three early childhood policy leaders, two plenary sessions, 43 concurrent sessions, and two ½ day Pre-Institute Workshops. Each workshop and concurrent session was rated during the Institute. The ratings on a 1-5 scale with 5 being highest were extremely positive. The summary means of participants’ ratings across all sessions are as follows: quality ($x=4.69$), organization & clarity of content ($x=4.73$), usefulness ($x=4.70$), and relevance (4.75).

In addition ratings of the Institute as a whole were collected by an online survey sent to all participants immediately following the Institute. Based on a 52% response rate, mean ratings were as follows: overall quality of Institute ($x=4.53$); quality of presenters and resource people ($x=4.50$); and relevance of Institute ($x=4.53$).

Summary

We are pleased with the overall success of the Institute from content, organizational, and logistical perspectives. Participants found the Institute rewarding, informative, and relevant to their daily work. We achieved the cross-sector participation that we sought with a balanced regular education and special education representation. This aspect of the meeting was much appreciated by our attendees with several asking us to continue the good job of recruiting representatives from all sectors to the Institute.

We truly could not have done it without you. Thank you for partnering with us in this important endeavor.