

Our Services

We provide the following contractual services:

- Train the Trainer model for paraprofessional training - teachers, administrators and other licensed professionals are trained to deliver research based curriculum to paraprofessionals.
- Professional development for administrators, teachers and other licensed professionals to supervise and utilize paraprofessionals effectively.
- Paraprofessional training modules/academies on a wide range of topics in K-12 general, special, and linguistically diverse education as well as early intervention and early childhood education.
- Mentor training modules and supports for induction programs.
- "Grow your own" teacher pipelines and pathways for indigenous candidates, paraprofessionals and high school students.
- Team building, collaboration, problem solving and conflict management training.

UCD credits/CEUs are available for all professional development activities.

For cost of services and other details, please contact:

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or

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The PAR²A Center Staff

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The PAR²A Center

The Paraprofessional Resource and Research Center (PAR²A Center) is a part of the School of Education & Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver. Our mission is to develop a qualified and effective workforce consisting of degreed and non-degreed personnel in the fields of early intervention, education and human services through policy creation, professional development and research. In addition to being the premier source of information on paraprofessionals (paraeducators) working in the fields of education and human services, the Center is a nationally recognized leader for: research-based Train the Trainer (TOT), coaching and supervision models; competency-based curriculum and instructional materials; and, innovative pathways that transition indigenous candidates to teacher positions in high-need schools.

Our Funded Projects

The PAR²A Center is supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Education and also contracts with state as well as local agencies.

Our projects fall under four broad categories:

Career Ladder projects provide preparation to paraeducators, mid-career changers/recent graduates and other non-traditional students to transition to professional teaching positions.

Training projects provide preparation for paraeducators as well as training for professionals and administrators regarding the utilization and supervision of paraeducators.

Preparation Program Improvement projects focus on improving the quality of existing teacher and paraprofessional preparation programs by including evidence based and standards based competencies into the curriculum.

Research projects focus on research about employment, training, supervision and effectiveness of paraprofessionals and teachers.

Our Partners

- Colorado Department of Education
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado Department of Higher Education
- Other four year colleges and universities
- Colorado Community College System
- Colorado school districts – all across the state including rural and remote districts
- Boards of Cooperative Education Services
- State designated alternative licensure programs
- Community Centered Boards and other community agencies
- Alternative schools and agencies for at risk youth
- State departments and school districts

Our Funding Agencies

- Colorado Department of Education
- Colorado Department of Higher Education
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- U.S. Department of Education:
 - ◊ Office of Special Education Programs
 - ◊ Office of English Language Acquisition
 - ◊ Office of Innovation and Improvement - Transition to Teaching program



Our Accomplishments

- Created 22 courses and instructor manuals for K-12 paraeducators and 17 courses and instructor manuals for early Intervention paraprofessionals leading to a variety of certificates.
- Trained over 1,300 trainers to deliver research based curriculum to paraprofessionals.
- Trained over 3500 licensed professionals in paraprofessional supervision.
- Trained over 12,000 paraprofessionals.
- Created face to face and online mentor training for master teachers who provide supports to pre-service and novice teachers.
- Transitioned over 300 paraeducators and other diverse non-traditional students to teachers mainly in high-need subject areas - Special Education, Bilingual Education, Math and Science.
- Developed and implemented the standards and system of state required training and supervision of early intervention paraprofessionals in Colorado.
- Partnered with 124 high-need districts, including 93 which are rural districts, to recruit, prepare and retain highly qualified home grown teachers.
- Collaborated with community college faculty to incorporate standards-based special education competencies into existing Early Childhood Education and Teacher Education courses in the Colorado Community College system.
- Designed course and instructor materials for five online courses, comprising the state required early intervention paraprofessional certificate, for the Colorado community college system.
- Impacted pre and in-service preparation and policies regarding paraprofessionals and teachers in Colorado and other states.