

## ***Instructionally Related Activities Report Form***

SPONSOR: Talya Drescher, Michelle Dean  
PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: Special Education  
ACTIVITY TITLE: Jobs in the Field  
DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: November 18-23, 2016

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at [david.daniels@csuci.edu](mailto:david.daniels@csuci.edu) within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

### **A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
- (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
- (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
- (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
- (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
- (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
- (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)
- 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY (DO NOT INCLUDE ACCOUNTING STRINGS)

### **B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:**

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

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### **C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:**

Please embed 3-5 images in this document (or attach in .JPEG format) that demonstrate student participation with captions/titles.



### **(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY**

Guest speakers provided video recorded testimony that will was uploaded to Blackboard for related education and special education courses. Testimonies addressed the following topics:

1. Career description including job responsibilities and duties
2. How knowledge of disability, implications of disability in society, schools and interpersonal relationships has positively impacted their ability to perform their job
3. If applicable, which academic, social and behavioral assessments are used in their workplace and how the findings impact their clientele
4. Education and related job experience required for their position and related positions in the field
5. Words of wisdom- Speaking to current students, which types of courses/degree programs/experiences would help gain access to the workplace

Due to the fact that courses in the special education program are offered both online and in person, the testimonies were accessible to students regardless of the type of course they are enrolled in at the time of viewing. Professors who teach in-person courses were able to view the video with students in real time and facilitate discussion about career, degree and course opportunities at CSUCI. Similarly, professors of online courses integrated the videos into their courses and facilitate online discussion addressing the same topics.

### **(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?**

SPED/PSYCH 345 learning outcomes that were directly addressed by the video testimonies include:

1. Describe the general education, special education and support personnel roles and responsibilities in the educational process (from identification, referral, assessment, IEP planning and meeting, instruction and evaluation).

Testimonies provided a first person narrative of support personnel roles and responsibilities in the educational process.

### **(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?**

In an online course, students don't have the same opportunities to listen to and interact with guest speakers. This activity simulated a panel discussion of jobs that include working with people with disabilities and, while the Q & A session of an in person panel was missing, most of the speakers included their contact information in their presentation. Additionally, many of the speakers provided job postings within their organizations which I posted to the course website. In the student responses, a number



indicated that they would be in contact with the organizations due to this exercise and will be applying for part-time work.

**(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?**

A weakness of this activity is that students were able to pick and choose the speakers to listen to and respond to in writing. Of the 14 speakers, they were required to write about four of them. While many noted that they viewed the remaining videos, the culminating task did not integrate a component that confirmed this.

**(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?**

Because of the inability to ensure viewing of all the videos, next time, I will alter the culminating writing task to include a piece that requires confirmation of complete viewing or at least viewing of the bulk of the video testimonies.

**(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?**

This process was new to me. I learned how to apply for an IRA, how to make connections with the community to bring in the speakers, coordinate with the FIT Studio and maintain the relationships with the guest speakers.

**(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)**

After this task was submitted, a number of students (unsolicited) emailed me to thank me for this module. Excerpts from their emails (without identifiable information) are included on Attachment 1.

**(8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.**

Speakers were given an honorarium of either \$100 for those who came to campus on company time or \$250 for those who came during their vacation or free time.

**B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST (PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)**

See attachment 2.

**C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES IN THIS DOCUMENT TO DEMONSTRATE STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

See attachment 3.

### Attachment 1: Student Responses to the Activity

Student 1: I am very thankful they took the time and you took the time to provide us with information about these jobs and their contributions to our community. It was very helpful.

Student 2: I read your comment on my assignment and am responding back to you on I would not mind if you shared my comments with them. I actually would like to get in contact with Tim and Sharon because I really like what they are doing.

Student 3: Yes, I would not mind you sharing my thoughts with the people I wrote about in my last module. I sincerely enjoyed hearing Jolan Smith, UCLA researcher. That was also a passion I had, to be able to work with at risk youth. I'm still pursuing a career in teaching, general education. I have given it some thought about working with students with special needs, but my heart keeps pulling at me in a different directions, general education. I have many interest in working with the older students, specially the disadvantage or what I see as the forgotten ones. When I heard Jolan Smith, I was fascinated by her job description and the work she does with youth and families, especially the research part. I would like to do something similar in the near future, but I need the experience and hopefully I can gain some during my teaching career.

Student 4: It was really great to see all the different ways that each speaker chose to help others!

Student 5: Thanks for the comments on my assignment. You can share it with Joel and Tina! Yeah, the jobs sound wonderful. Maybe in another season for me. Thanks!



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Attachment 2: Attendee List

Guest Speakers (listed by job title):

1. In Home Respite Care Providers
2. Researcher
3. General Education Teacher
4. Orientation and Mobility Specialist
5. Nursing Assistant
6. Camp Director
7. Job Training Coach
8. In Home Care Provider (for ages 0-3)
9. Art Therapist
10. Behavioral Analyst
11. Recreation Therapist
12. Supported Living Services Provider
13. Adaptive Living Services Coordinator
14. Behavioral Therapist

Student Participants:

All students who participated were enrolled in one of four sections of SPED/PSYCH 345. Class sizes range from 28-30.



### Attachment 3: Student Work Samples

Below are excerpts from student submissions for this activity. The directions were to:

Watch the series of videos posted in this module. In it you will see multiple speakers discussing their jobs and how knowledge of disability has helped them perform the duties and tasks required of them.

In your writing task, choose two (2) of the speakers whose jobs are of particular interest to you. Address the following for each:

Name of the speakers

Job title of the speakers

Job descriptions of the speakers

Investigate their employer. Note the agency website, contact person, requirements for application (experience, education, supporting documentation such as letters of recommendation, etc.), starting salary and salary range.

Why did you choose these speakers? What sets them apart?

Would you consider applying? Why or why not?

Compare the two (2) speakers/jobs with at least two (2) other speakers/jobs that are not of interest to you. In 1-2 paragraphs, explain why some jobs appeal to you more than others. Make sure to reference the four speakers in your writing.

**Student 1:** As I was looking through the different jobs, I was looking for jobs that I could personally contribute to and have an impact in. As a videographer aspiring to be a director someday, the two jobs that stood out to me were the camp director and the art therapist. The first speaker I looked at was (camp director). He's a camp director for (Camp Name), and is in charge of the programs and staff throughout the camp. He talked specifically about having inclusion counselors and working to include kids with disabilities into the camp. I really enjoyed this speaker because part way through his first story, he made a simple comment on how they made a mistake in including students with disabilities in the camp. It was a simple statement, but I felt it showed humility and the result of that humility benefited hundreds of kids in the future.

The other job that was appealing was the art therapist. This speaker was (art therapist). She works as an art therapist and programs director for (organization). I chose this speaker because while I don't work with psychology, I do work in the art world, and the use of art and how it affects people is something I'm passionate about. (Speaker) specifically doesn't just work as an art therapist, but also as a marriage and family therapist as well. Her versatility with that stood out to me as someone who generally cares.

**Student 2:** These two speakers are set apart by a few different things. (Nursing Assistant) tasking at work is very technical while (Art Therapist) is more abstract. (Nursing Assistant) helps patients attain optimum physical health while (Art Therapist) focuses more on psychological health. Despite these differences, their overall job is very similar-the overall betterment of the human person. Both positions can be considered very holistic in the nature of their care in the effect that they take in to consideration all aspects of the entire person that they're caring for or helping.

One job that doesn't particularly appeal to me is that of the camp director. The reason isn't because I wouldn't want to work with children with special needs or anything like that, it's more so because I'm not a person that enjoys outdoor activities as much as some others might. It's the outdoor aspect of camp director that doesn't necessarily appeal to me. A second job that is not of particular interest to me is that of the general education teacher at a high school. I think the main reason I'm not as fond of this position is that general education teachers are often expected to be able to teach a wide range of topics at any given time, and I prefer jobs that focus in less areas (such as in nursing, you're focusing mostly on the medical aspect and science).

**Student 3:** I chose to discuss these two speakers because their jobs are in the field in which I am most interested to work in. I enjoyed listening to their interviews and gathering a small insight on what their daily work looks like. What I like most about these jobs is that they are directly making a positive impact in someone's life and meeting their needs. I would definitely consider working for both of these companies. Helping kids is something I would love to do in the future and the two speakers seem very pleased to work at a job so rewarding by making a difference in someone's life.

I thought the Art Therapy speaker was so unique, I have never heard of sessions involving art pieces. It was interesting to hear how she incorporated that into her sessions and also offers an art studio for people with disabilities as well as entrepreneurship learning skills. The nursing assistant explained how she works with a group of children and their parent's every day.

All of the jobs are incredible and very gratifying as it involves helping others and supporting them with their specific needs.

**Student 4:** I chose to discuss these two speakers because their jobs are in the field in which I am most interested to work in. I enjoyed listening to their interviews and gathering a small insight on what their daily work looks like. What I like most about these jobs is that they are directly making a positive impact in someone's life and meeting their needs. I would definitely consider working for both of these companies. Helping kids is something I would love to do in the future and the two speakers seem very pleased to work at a job so rewarding by making a difference in someone's life.

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