Purpose: This project will restructure James Madison University's M.Ed. in Special Education (K-12) into the Resilient and Informed Special Educators (RISE) program. RISE involves a five-year plan to recruit and prepare highly qualified educators to serve culturally and linguistically diverse students with disabilities.

Method: The revised program will involve collaboration with key stakeholders in planning and program design; the review and revision of program curriculum to meet the need for highly qualified teachers of diverse learners with high-incidence exceptional needs; and facilitation of ongoing professional development for university and partner personnel to prepare, support, and retain highly qualified special educators. The resiliency of special educators (SPED) teacher candidates and graduates will be addressed through a planned comprehensive induction and mentoring program. The planning, delivery, and evaluation of the SPED program will involve collaboration among the many stakeholders involved, as will the instruction, support, and assessment of the SPED (K-12) teacher candidates and graduates. Teacher candidates will develop knowledge of general academic content and Virginia's Standards of Learning and have expanded opportunities to observe, participate in, critically analyze, and personally reflect on professional practice in clinical experiences and field work that represent the continuum of placement and service delivery options for diverse populations. The proposed restructured program will be submitted to OSEP and Virginia's Department of Education for review. The project will also ensure evaluation of the restructured program; and dissemination of information regarding the preparation of highly qualified
special educators to professional colleagues at the local, state, and international level.

Products: