Purpose: This project will design and implement improvements to the preservice preparation program, a five-year Baccalaureate-to-Master's program, for teachers of students with high-incidence disabilities.

Method: The project will create an Advisory Council that includes educators, agency representatives, parents, and self-advocates to help guide and monitor project activities. The project will: (a) design and implement an integrated teacher education program that includes an expanded collaborative field experience; (b) revise curriculum and requirements in the five-year program in high-incidence disabilities so that graduates meet highly qualified teacher standards and are prepared to meet the needs of students from all backgrounds; (c) recruit, retain, and graduate 20 students per cohort, resulting in approximately 80 new teachers who successfully complete the improved program in Years 2 and 4; (d) develop and implement collaborative induction and mentoring activities that lend enhanced support to new teachers and create mutually beneficial opportunities for professional growth for current and former students, faculty, and cooperating professionals; and (e) monitor and evaluate the goals of the project, its impact on identified personnel needs, and the extent to which graduates achieve program competencies.

Products: