Announcement of New Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Training Opportunities & Fellowships
Focusing on Young Children with Disabilities

Participating Degree Programs:
Division of Curriculum & Instruction: Early Childhood Special Education Focus
Department of Speech & Hearing Science: Early Childhood & Early Intervention Focus
School of Family and Human Dynamics: Early Intervention Focus

This Ph.D. training program addresses the need for interdisciplinary faculty who are equipped to prepare future personnel and conduct research that can contribute to, and guide, scientifically-based practices for families and their young children with disabilities during the early childhood years. In addition to the focus on early childhood, the program content includes an emphasis on the cultural and linguistic diversity (CLD) commonly represented in the Southwest borderland states (e.g., American Indian and Hispanic families, Spanish-speaking families, new immigrant families, and a population associated with movement back and forth across international borders). While common throughout the U.S., these issues are intensified in Southwest border states, such as Arizona, which in turn affords the opportunity for in-depth, field-based research and training experiences to promote an understanding of evidence-based practices for these populations.

A problem-based learning format will be used as a framework for students to obtain a full and rich understanding of key problems in early childhood special education and related services, brainstorm solutions collaboratively with those in the field and with diverse families, and ultimately design and implement an interdisciplinary research project that is focused on elucidating identified educational or service delivery problems. Instructional activities include a focus on problem-based learning, building relationships and learning within the context of such relationships, while also modeling and facilitating reflection as a central strategy for ongoing integration of new knowledge and skills as well as evaluation.

The program design includes a focus on:
- Interdisciplinary research training to identify effective intervention and educational practices in a broad base of early childhood settings
- Cultural and linguistic diversity and the interface with research design and provision of effective intervention and educational services
- Policy research and the roles of policy and advocacy in serving families and children with disabilities;
- Training future researchers and practitioners including early childhood special educators, early interventionists, and speech-language pathologists

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2006

For more information please contact: mjwilcox@asu.edu or Beth.Swadener@asu.edu