

Press Release

Monmouth University School of Education Special Services' Academy Begins its Third Year with "Speech Therapy: Laws and Policies as Recommended by ASHA Related to Educational Services"

WEST LONG BRANCH October 10, 2013: The Monmouth University School of Education Special Services Academy held the first session of their third year at the Monmouth University's Magill Commons. The topic was, "Speech Therapy: Laws and Policies as Recommended by ASHA Related to Educational Services". Monmouth University Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) Professors Joanne Cascia, Ed.D CCC-SLP; Patricia Remshifski, PhD. CCC-SLP; and Elisabeth Mlawski MS, CCC-SLP presented.

Presenters provided academy members a brief overview of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), particularly how their guidelines and standards can be implemented in the schools. The session also addressed the role and responsibilities of SLPs in the schools, ways to collaborate with other professionals, assessment guidelines, and incorporating the Common Core Curriculum Standards into the SLP goals.

"The program was helpful to educators and administrators who may not be familiar with the ASHA guidelines and standards" said Dr. Cascia. "SLP services are offered at every school yet many educators and administrators may be unfamiliar with the agency that governs SLPs in the field."

The SLPs who were present commented that they found the question/answer/discussion portion particularly helpful as they find it valuable to interact and discuss topics with other SLPs. "This is often difficult in smaller districts or in schools with only one SLP on premises" said Dr. Cascia.

The Academy membership is made up of special service directors, school psychologists, learning consultants, school social workers, and speech specialists. Its mission is to provide professional learning communities that offer growth opportunities for members through sessions that focus on promoting reflective practice and positively impacting student and teacher learning.

The upcoming sessions are: "Transition Services", Thursday, December 5, 2013, 12pm-2pm; "Impact of New Assessments and Teacher Evaluation Systems on Special Education", Thursday, February 20, 2014, 12pm-2pm; and "English Language Learners and Special Education", Thursday, May 1, 2014, 12pm-2pm.

For more information regarding the Special Services Academy and its workshop series, please call 732-571-7518 or send e-mail to soespecialservicesacademy@monmouth.edu.