



ASSOCIATION FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Newsletter

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2006

Association for Positive Behavior Support

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APBS Election Results

Results of the recent elections for new members of the APBS board are in! Please congratulate the following new or returning board members:

- Jackie Anderson
- Glen Dunlap
- Lucille Eber
- Don Kincaid

APBS Conference

The Third International Conference on Positive Behavior Support will be in Reno, Nevada on March 23–25, 2006. Register online (www.apbs.org).

The conference features many exciting presentations, workshops, and posters on a variety of topics of interest to members of APBS. Topics to be covered include: individual student supports, individual supports for children and adults, school-wide systems, classrooms, autism, families, community, academics, professional training, multicultural issues, mental health, and early intervention.

In an effort to highlight important work in different areas of PBS, leaders

in the field will be giving invited presentations. Invited speakers include:

- Edward Carr (keynote address)
- Fredda Brown
- Glen Dunlap
- Steve Hayes
- Rob Horner
- Kent Johnson
- Lynn Kern-Koegel
- Cathy Pratt
- Dennis Reid
- Ilene Schwartz
- George Sugai

To provide an opportunity for interaction and discussion around current issues in PBS, the conference will include panel discussions on a number of important topics including:

- Integrating academics into SWPBS
- High schools and PBS
- Collaboration between families and professionals
- Training and curriculum in PBS
- Funding PBS implementation within states
- Building systems for family participation in SWPBS
- Gaps in the literature: A call for research

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3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

The
**Expanding
World of PBS:**
SCIENCE, VALUES, AND VISION

**MARCH 23–25, 2006
RENO HILTON
RENO, NEVADA**

**If you attend only one conference
this year, make it
The Third International Conference on
Positive Behavior Support!**



- Building state and district capacity to implement SWPBS with fidelity
- Encouraging interagency collaboration
- Transitioning from school to work
- Evidence-based practice in autism

Integrating Positive Behavior Support into a Special Education Teacher Training Program

**Chris Borgmeier, PhD &
Lisa Kemmerer, PhD
Portland State University**

Behavior management is frequently cited as the most challenging part of a teacher's job, and the part of the job for which they often feel the least prepared. In the *Phi/Delta/Kappa Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools*, lack of discipline/control consistently ranks in the top three biggest problems facing public schools (Rose & Gallup, 2005). In a survey of 725 teachers, 85% believe new teachers are particularly unprepared for dealing with problem behavior, and challenges with student problem behavior is frequently cited as the primary reason teachers identify for quitting the profession (Public Agenda, 2004). As demands placed on teacher training programs seem to be increasing, behavior management is an area in which we cannot afford to cut corners. It is imperative that we provide our future teachers with the best skills in behavior management and Positive Behavior Support. Portland State University (PSU) in Portland, Oregon is working to address these needs in the Department of Special Education.

PSU offers students in the Special Education teacher training program the opportunity for focused training in behavioral intervention through two Focus Areas: Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and Functional Analysis (FA). The Focus Areas offer students opportunities for more intensive, specialized training in behavior management within the 15-month teacher training program. The PBS Focus Area is led by Chris Borgmeier, Ph.D., while the FA Focus Area is directed by Lisa Kemmerer, Ph.D. While all students in the Special Education program gain a foundational understanding of PBS

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and Function-Based Support through coursework in Behavior & Classroom Management, twelve students each year have the opportunity to pursue more intensive behavioral training through one of the previously mentioned Focus Areas.

Participation in either Focus Area offers students guided opportunities to take PBS and behavioral intervention out of the university classroom and into the school classroom. Supervision of students during practicum and student teaching focuses closely on applying effective instruction, behavioral intervention, and PBS in the classroom. In addition to the requirements of the Special Education program, which spans two summers and one school year, students who sign up for one of the Focus Areas take a 1 credit seminar (PBS Seminar or FA Seminar) during fall, winter, and spring quarters to more closely examine behavioral intervention and application in schools. In the spring, students in both Focus Areas take the Advanced Behavior Management course focused on function-based intervention for those students with the most challenging problem behavior. Finally, students complete Master's Projects related to Positive Behavior Support or Functional Analysis.

PBS Focus Area

During the PBS Seminar students receive additional training in the application of PBS in schools, classrooms, and individual student intervention. Within the PBS Focus Area, students examine the potential implication of broader school system (i.e., School-Wide PBS, Response to Intervention) variables on student behavior, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the special educator. With several school districts in the Portland area implementing or beginning district-wide initiatives to implement School-wide PBS, there are many opportunities to merge teacher training with school and district PBS efforts. Students attend a number of PBS trainings being conducted with local schools and school districts, where the students participate as active members of

school teams in various stages of development and implementation of school-wide PBS systems or Individual Student Interventions. These experiences as participants on school teams in the process of systems change have been instrumental in developing school leaders in PBS. Students in the PBS Focus Area regularly attend the annual Oregon PBS Conference, and several previous PBS Focus Area graduates will be presenting with Chris Borgmeier at this year's Oregon PBS Conference in March.

Functional Analysis Focus Area

During the functional analysis seminar, students receive additional knowledge in the assessment and treatment of students with developmental disabilities who exhibit severe behavior problems. One primary focus of the seminar is to discuss the link between functional communication skills and severe behavior problems. Through review of the literature, presentation of case studies, observations of home and school consultation, and involvement in faculty research in the area of applied behavior analysis, students further extend their skills in working with individuals with severe behavior problems.

Special Education administrators in many Portland area school districts have begun to take notice of the additional behavior management skills students are gaining as members of these Focus Areas. Some local districts have started specifically seeking out PSU students who have been members of the Behavior Focus Areas because of the improved training in behavior management and PBS. Special Educators are often looked to as the resident experts in a school when it comes to behavioral concerns, and with the additional training students in our Focus Area are receiving, they are better prepared to fill this important role. In a time when many teacher training programs are focused on getting students through to licensure faster, this is one model for providing additional teacher training in the areas of

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PBS and Behavioral Intervention that has improved teacher preparation in the area of Behavior Support.

References

- Public Agenda. (2004). *Teaching Interrupted: Do Discipline Policies in Today's Public Schools Foster the Common Good?* www.publicagenda.org/research/pdfs/teaching_interrupted_exec_summary.pdf
- Rose, L.C., & Gallup, A.M. (2005). *The 37th Annual Phi/Delta/Kappa Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools.* www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k0509pol.pdf

Upcoming Events of Interest

The 3rd International Conference on Positive Behavior Support will be in Reno, Nevada on March 23–25, 2006. Register online at www.apbs.org.

The 32nd Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis will be held May 26–30, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia. Get more information and register online at: <http://www.abainternational.org/>



Promote Membership in APBS

You can help the Association for Positive Behavior Support by handing out flyers about apbs.org and encouraging people to become members. There are many ways to share information with others about the Association for PBS:

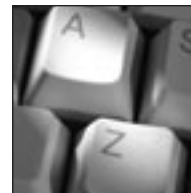
- Share this issue of the journal and newsletter with a friend (enclose a membership form from our Web site).
- Add APBS membership forms to your hand-out packets for workshops and conference presentations.
- In your presentations, add a slide promoting APBS; it is the only organization dedicated to positive behavior support.

www.apbs.org

APBS Newsletter

Please consider contributing to the APBS Newsletter. The newsletter should be a mechanism for sharing perspectives on PBS. Please consider submitting:

- Innovative Applications
- Member Perspectives
- Training Events & Workshops
- Resources and Materials
- Success Stories



If you would like to submit to the newsletter, please contact:

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