

## CENTER GRANT DETAILS

In 2007 the Institute of Education Sciences announced their intent to fund one *National Research and Development Center on Serious Behavior Disorders at the Secondary Level*. Three investigators including Lee Kern (special education at Lehigh University), Tim Lewis (special education at the University of Missouri) and Steve Evans put together a proposal that outlined a school based intervention development process that could be conducted over five years for high school students identified as emotionally disturbed or other health impaired (ADHD). The interventions being developed are divided into three groups including family, child, and teacher interventions. The first two years involve a lot of pilot work and manual preparation and the final three years involve a randomized trial over 40 high schools using the procedures developed during the first two years. Additional sites were recruited to help with the trial. There are ten high schools in this area that have agreed to participate. In addition to the main activities related to treatment development, there are some additional projects that will be supported by the center and affiliated faculty. These address the following questions:

- What are the school, community, child and family characteristics that lead to out-of-school placements for children identified as emotionally disturbed or other health impaired (ADHD)?
- What accommodations can help these students be successful and how can school personnel know which accommodations to provide for which students?
- What school mental health procedures can be effectively provided by school employed mental health providers (school counselors, social workers & school psychologists)?
- What are the psychometric properties of the Classroom Performance Survey?
- Do schools who are actively implementing school wide positive behavior support provide a better context for the addition of child-focused treatments than those who do not?
- What is the role of racial socialization in relation to African American students' success at school?

There are many opportunities for faculty and students in any of our graduate programs to get involved and Steve would be happy to discuss possible theses and dissertations as well as faculty research interests that may overlap with the goals of our center. Funding in the grant will support graduate assistantships in the Psychological Sciences program as well as faculty who will be affiliated with our department.