

# **Engineering for Students with Extensive Support Needs** Ginevra Courtade, Ph.D. University of Louisville Bree Jimenez, Ph.D. University of Texas at Arlington



# **Project Goals**

- 1. To promote high-quality engineering instruction in elementary schools for students with extensive support needs (ESN)
- 2. To investigate elementary school teachers' development of conceptual and epistemic understanding of engineering education for students with ESN and optimal ways to support both understandings through engineering design curriculum implementation

#### Method

- Multiple Methods Design
- Quantitative Measures:
  - Teacher self-efficacy growth across PDs
  - Implementation logs
- Qualitative Measures:
  - o Semi-structured interviews
  - Focus groups
  - Coding of over 50 hours of filmed lessons

#### **Objectives and Strands of Work**

- 1. Empirically investigate teachers' engineering instruction using the YES! curriculum
- 2. Develop a framework of conceptual and epistemic understanding of engineering education for students with ESN
- 3. Conduct design-based implementation research to support UDL engineering instruction and instructional materials
- 4. Produce and disseminate the instructional support framework and materials

#### **Project BEES Framework**

Universal	Engagement	Desugantation	Action & Evangesian
Design for	Engagement	Representation	Action & Expression
Design for			
Learning	Recruit Interest	Perception	Physical Action
(UDL; CAST,	Sustain Effort & Persistence	Language & Symbols	Expression &
2018)	Self-Regulation	Comprehension	Communication
			Executive Functions
	Engineering for Students with Extensive Support Needs		
Engineering Habits of Mind (YES!)	Consider problems in context		
	Use a systematic, problem-solving process		
	Explore properties and uses of materials		
	Balance tradeoffs between criteria and constraints		
	Innovate to design solutions		
	Apply science knowledge to problem-solving		
	Apply math knowledge to problem-solving		
	Envision multiple solutions		
	Use systems thinking		
	Construct and use models and prototypes		
	Make evidence-based decisions		
	Persist and learning from failure		
	Assess implications of solutions		
	Work effectively in teams		
	Communicate effectively		
	Identify as engineers		

# Teacher Self-Efficacy Growth Over Time



### Teacher Reported Habits of Mind Across Unit



# Next Steps-Year 2

- Fall 2023
  - Units 2 and 3 with Teachers
  - o Begin Student Behavior Data Collection
- Analysis:
  - o Student and Teacher Behavioral Coding
  - Additional Variables (Active Noticing, Student Engineering Focused Behaviors)



## **For More Information:**

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