**Project Title:** Postdoctoral Special Education Research Training in Urban Communities: A Research to Practice Model

**Principal Investigator:** Kamps, D

**Co-Principal Investigator(s):** Wills, H

**Sponsor:** USDE - Institute of Education Sciences

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**Duration Dates:** 03/01/10-02/28/14

**Brief Description of Project:**

The University of Kansas—Post Doctoral Training in Special Education Research Training in Urban Communities: A Research to Practice Model provides postdoctoral fellows with field experience and methodological training in primarily two areas of research—children and adolescents with serious behavior disorders and children with autism spectrum disorders. The program will be housed at the Juniper Gardens Children's Project and the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training. The Juniper Gardens Children's Project is a university, community-based research facility with a focus on improving academic and social outcomes for children. The Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training is a multidisciplinary research center with the goal of improving the lives of persons with autism through intervention research and training.

Research experiences are designed to build Fellows’ capacity to conduct quality special education intervention research, apply and increase knowledge of experimental design methodology, and use of assessment tools to design learning and behavioral interventions. The focus of the training program will be on intervention research, both development and evaluation. Fellows will receive training in randomized control trials and single-subject designs. Research opportunities for fellows include (a) an evaluation of a classroom wide intervention for students with and at risk for serious behavior disorders, (b) and evaluation of a comprehensive intervention for young children with autism, (c) evaluation of an intervention package for secondary students with serious behavior disorders, and (d) the development of a professional development curriculum to improve instructional and classroom management practices.