

AMP FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

Goal 3: *Cultivate the mutual interaction of theory and practice.*

Strengths

- Accessibility to: Lab School, Head Start, Child Care/Districts
- Accessibility to: Urban, rural and suburban sites
- Internships and practica in place {agencies and businesses}
- Generally good relationship with field sites across departments

Weaknesses

- Fieldwork is not clearly supported in promotion guidelines
- Fieldwork is not clearly supported by coordinated, campus-wide communications
- Fieldwork is not clearly supported by budget lines for travel expenses {for either faculty and students}
- Fieldwork is not clearly supported with reassigned time for faculty to coordinate placements and monitor sites consistent with accreditation guidelines
- Fieldwork does not consistently emphasize diverse experiences for all students

Opportunities

- Reviews from accreditation bodies provide guidance and support for reform
- Increased requirements for more field experiences linked to course content
- Awareness of national trends and professional information provide support for change
- Increased need to partner with agencies, schools and industry due to economic conditions

Threats

- Lack of funding for systematic & supervised field experiences
- Lack of reward system for faculty to support fieldwork
- Competition from online universities
- Increased class sizes and 4/4 course loads are disincentives for experiential learning