Division of Disability Resources & Educational Services (DRES) at the University of Illinois and Vermilion Association for Special Education (VASE)
Welcome to DRES and VASE!
History and Background

DRES - DRES is the disability services office at the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign and provides services and accommodations to over 1700 undergraduate and graduate students with physical, systemic, learning disabilities, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, acquired brain injury, psychiatric disabilities and spectrum disorders. The students registered with DRES are a diverse population in terms of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, culture and country of origin. DRES began providing services to students with disabilities in 1948 and was the first post-secondary institution in the world to provide such accommodations. We continue with our longstanding tradition of excellence in providing equal access to students with all types of disabilities.
VASE – VASE is a Special Education Cooperative serving 10 rural community districts in Vermilion County surrounding the city of Danville, IL. Danville is approximately thirty (30) miles east of Champaign, IL. VASE exists to provide comprehensive, evidence-based prevention and intervention services to enable students with diverse needs to achieve their maximum learning potential through collaboration with, and support to the families, district personnel, and community agencies. VASE also houses a therapeutic day school program designed to serve students who are struggling with a variety of special education disabilities, such as, but not limited to, severe emotional concerns, anxiety, depression, physical symptoms or fears associated with school problems, behavior issues, inattention, hyperactivity, autism, and overall low functioning in cognition, whose needs cannot be adequately met in their home school districts.
Intern’s typical week of training:

DRES - Interns spend 2 days a week at DRES and 3 days a week at VASE during the school year. During the summer the caseload of coaching, individual therapy, and group therapy increases and the intern typically works 32 hours at DRES with 8 hours available for dissertation work and training.

DRES Typical Work Week:
2 hours individual formal supervision by licensed clinical psychologist, informal supervision available throughout the week
4 hours assessment
2 hour academic screening or providing feedback
3 hours report writing
4 hours coaching
5 hours individual or group psychotherapy
Intern’s typical week of training:

VASE - VASE provides a unique opportunity for interns to learn and specialize in activities related to Rural School Psychology with students with diverse needs and social-economic statuses. Internship activities involve opportunities to engage in psycho-educational assessment, functional behavior assessments, problem solving team participation, academic/behavioral consultation, and direct service of group/individual academic and social-emotional interventions at all grade levels Pre K – 12 with students with a variety of different needs and disabilities. Interns interact with a multidisciplinary team including school social workers, speech and language pathologists, and other service providers to conduct evaluations. They complete written reports of evaluations. Interns experience how rural schools with limited resources are able to meet the needs of students with special needs. Internship activities also include opportunities to provide training to school personnel through presentations and workshops.
Demographics –

DRES - In regards to ethnicity, approximately 70% of the DRES population identifies as white, 12% identifies as Asian, 7% identifies as Hispanic or Latino, 7% identifies as Black or African American, and less than 2% identify as American Indian or other ethnicities. DRES also serves a substantial number of veterans, most commonly identifying with posttraumatic stress disorder. The University of Illinois also has a very large international student population; students studying from abroad often present to DRES with a very different perspectives of mental health and disability which provides rich opportunities for cross-cultural exchange. Though data is not collected specifically in regard to sexual orientation or gender-identity (other than asking students what gender they identify), LGBTQ students are also represented within our population.
Demographics –

VASE - VASE serves 10 member districts which include over 7000 students. Member district enrollments range from as low as 73 students to almost 1,500. Across the cooperative, 13% of students are identified as having disabilities (IEPs), which equates to approximately 900 students. Across member districts, approximately 91% of students are white, 3% of students are Hispanic, and other students primarily identify as biracial or multiracial. There is a very low number of students who identify as ESL/ELL. Approximately 50% of the population of member districts are low-income, though in some districts that number is as high as 66%. Across member districts, there is approximately at 12% mobility rate, which is consistent with the state average.
Intern’s typical week of supervision

• Interns have ample opportunity for individual and group supervision. At DRES, interns receive individual supervision as well as supervision of clinical activities (e.g., live supervision) from a licensed clinical psychologist on average for two hours per week. Also, at DRES, interns participate in weekly group supervision for two hours. Furthermore, there is ongoing consultation and collaboration throughout the week as interns require it. DRES has four licensed clinical psychologists on staff to provide supervisory support to interns.

• At VASE, interns have a dedicated supervising school psychologist who provides both individual supervision as well as live supervision of case conferences and direct services with students. There are opportunities for peer supervision during staff meetings at the agencies home office.
History

- DRES has been a member of ISPIC since 2003 and have partnered with several different school districts and special education cooperatives in the area to train 1-2 interns annually. DRES and VASE have co-trained interns beginning in 2015. DRES currently has several ISPIC program completers on staff.
Supervisor

- Jonathan Thomas-Stagg, Ph.D., DRES
- Licensed School & Clinical Psychologist
- 1.0 FTE employee
- Devotes on average 5 hours per week (0.125 FTE) to the internship program.
Supervisor

- Dr. Kim Collins, Ph.D., DRES
- Licensed Clinical Psychologist
- 1.0 FTE employee
- Devotes on average 2.5 hours per week (0.0625 FTE) to the internship program.
Supervisors

- Julie Puzey and Amy Magers, VASE
- Certified School Psychologists
- 1.0 FTE employee
- Devotes on average 2.5 hours per week (0.0625 FTE) to the internship program.
Supervision at DRES

At DRES, supervision occurs in Dr. Thomas-Stagg’s office, pictured here. Supervision notes are kept in a locked filing cabinet.
Supervision at VASE takes place in the intern’s or supervisor’s office. Supervision notes are kept in a secure filing cabinet.
The main office at DRES is a welcoming environment where students are directed to the appropriate places in the DRES unit. There are typical office supplies, mailboxes, copy and fax machines available for interns to use, as well as a secure, staffed location for student records.
Main office and clerical support at VASE

The main office of VASE is centrally located among the agencies 10 school districts. Also at the headquarters of VASE is the Middlefork School where students can attend if they require an intensity of services that cannot be provided in their home school district.
Both DRES and VASE offer comprehensive access to standardized assessment equipment, therapy resources, as well as reference material.
Intern Office Space

At both locations, the DRES office and VASE home office, the interns have office space available for them to use including computer with internet access and phone.
School Districts

Below are a few snapshots of a location in a member district at VASE.
Thank you!

We hope you enjoyed this virtual tour. Questions about the VASE/DRES location can be directed to Dr. Jonathan Thomas-Stagg at jstagg@illinois.edu.