

Inclusion Is More Than A Checkbox: A Framework for Supporting Co- Researchers with Disabilities on Research Teams

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Our Research Team

Lexi Villarreal



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Agenda

1. **Background of Inclusive Research Teams**

2. **A Framework for Developing a Research Study with Co-Researchers with disabilities in IPSE**

3. **Experiences in a Research Team: Voices of Courtney and Lexi**

What Are Inclusive Research Teams?

Teams where individuals with disabilities have valued social roles

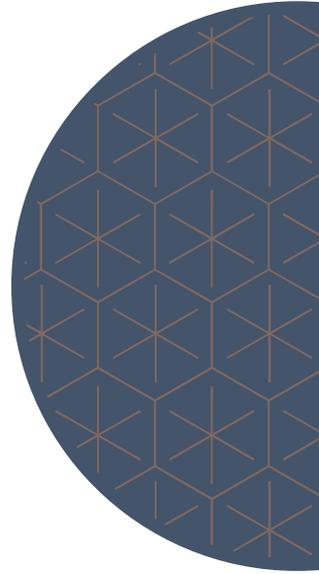
Research furthers the interests of individuals with disabilities

Collaboration, Accessibility, and Control

Walmsley and Johnson (2003)

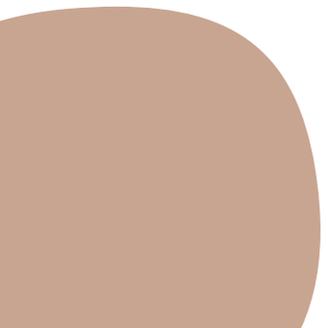
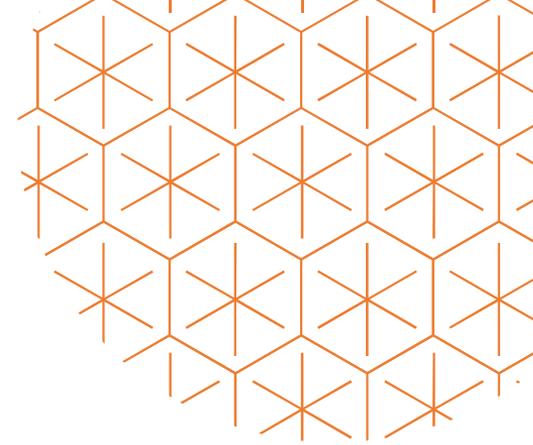
What Has Inclusion Looked Like on Research Teams?

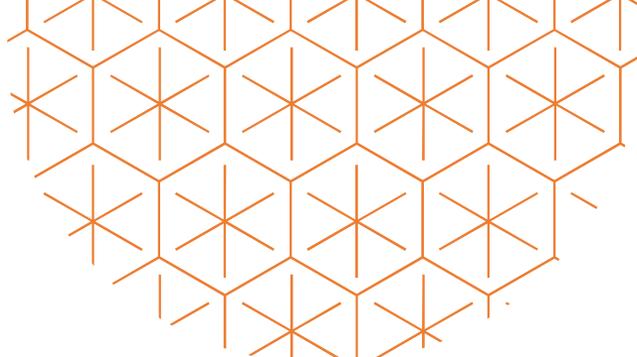
- Support with various aspects of a study (Garbutt, Tattersall, Dunn, & Boycott-Garnett, 2009)
 - Research questions, recruitment, data collection, data analysis, and reflections
- Authorship in manuscripts (Burke et al.2003)
 - Separate vs. integrated
- Exploration of outcomes associated with participation on a research team (Flood, Bennett, & Melsome, 2012)
- Challenges & barriers (Nind & Vinha, 2014)
- Reflections & direct-quotes (Brooks & Davies, 2008)



Gaps In Literature

- Limited knowledge of the roles of co-researchers with disabilities in the team
- Little understanding of the support structure for co-researchers with disabilities
- Gaps in manuscript preparation
 - How are the voices of individuals with disabilities represented in the manuscript?
- Criteria for recruitment and sustainability
 - one- time or ongoing partnership?

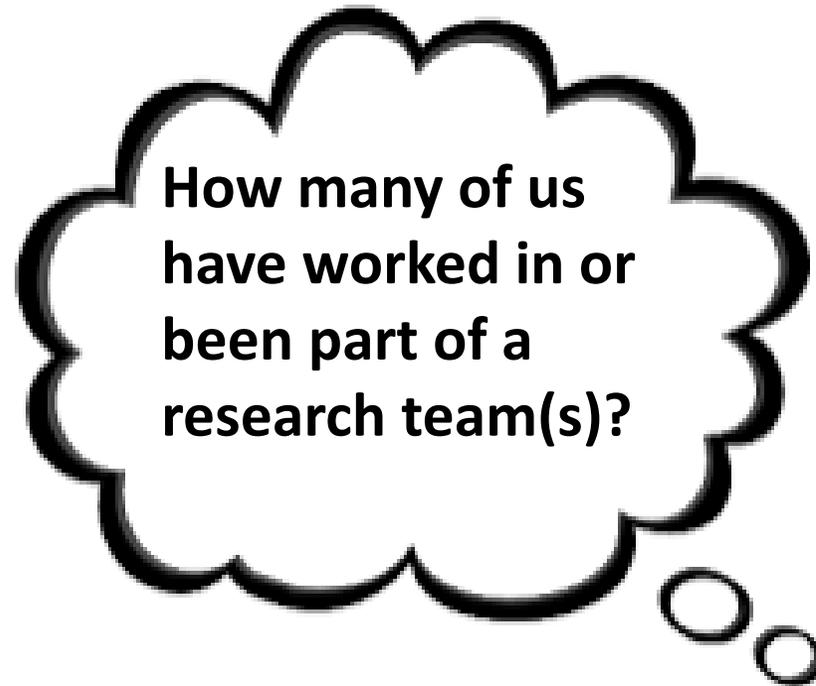




***Nihil de nobis, Sine
nobis***



**Nothing About Us,
Without US**



**How many of us
have worked in or
been part of a
research team(s)?**





**How Comfortable do you feel with
Leading Inclusive Research
Teams?**





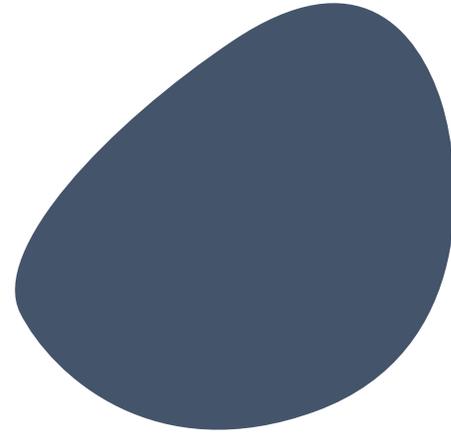
**How Comfortable do you feel
With Co-Researchers With
Disabilities Leading a Research
Study?**



Inclusion → Belonging

“Accessibility is being able to get in the building. Diversity is getting invited to the table. Inclusion is having a voice at the table.

Belonging is having your voice heard at the table.”



Developing A Research Study

Conversations with undergraduates led to research study questions



Recruitment for research team within Aggie
ACHIEVE



Co-researcher contract and training



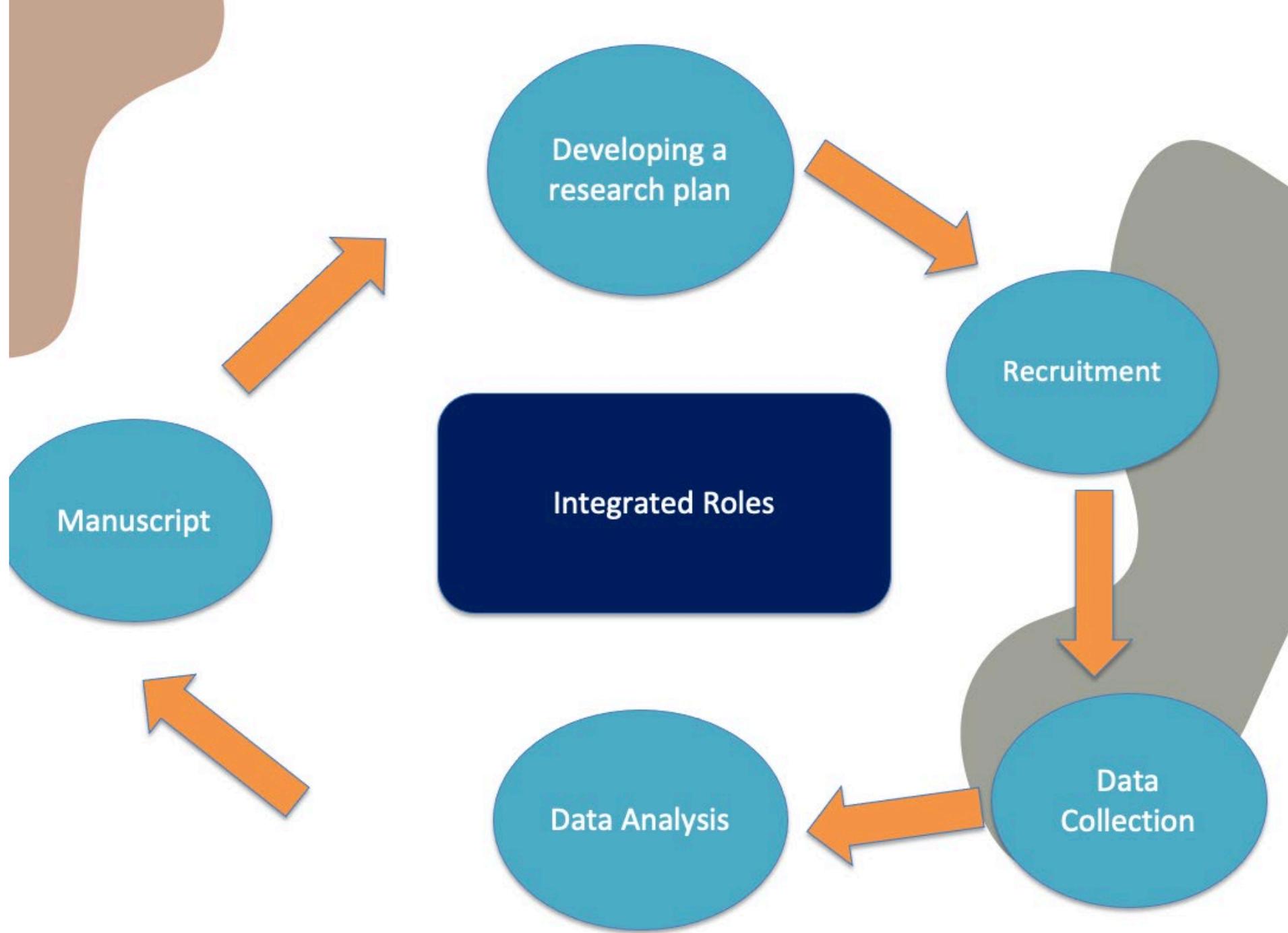
Discussion of extent of participation based
on interests



Support with research components

Ongoing training and support





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**A Framework for Supporting Co-
Researchers with Disabilities in
Inclusive Research Teams**

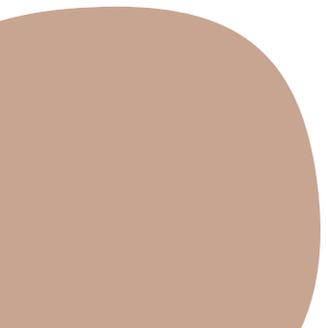
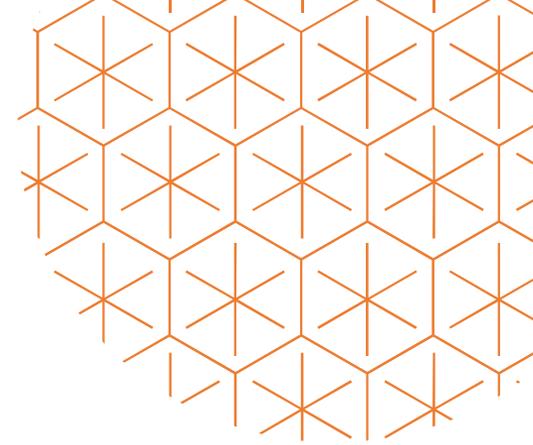
Step 1: Developing a Research Plan

What did we do?

- Discussed with team members about potential research questions.
- Put all team responses as bullet points and turned them into questions afterwards
- Discussed expectations of team members, gauge interests in certain research areas, and commitment of the team.
- Purpose: To add perspective, increase advocacy, and include voices as active participants not as recipients.

Recommendations:

- Ask specific questions to students about developing research questions
- Provide training for what a research team entails and the roles (we created a ppt)
- Emphasize commitment, outcomes, and accountability in research teams
- Highlight collaboration and equity- everyone is to meet the same expectations and will be held accountable.



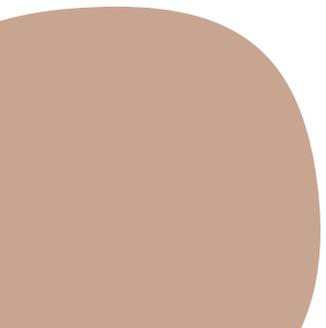
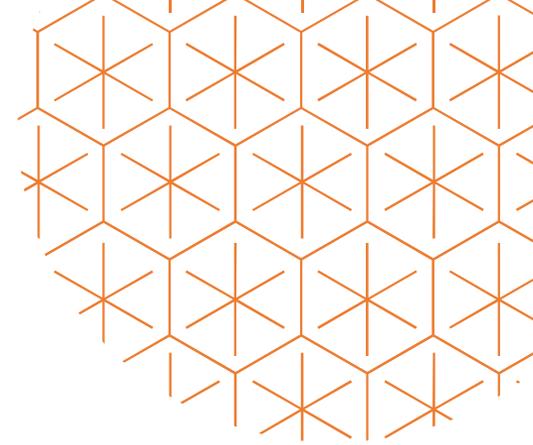
Step 2: Recruitment

What did we do?

- Purpose: Engage with peers, become involved in the nitty-gritty part of research, and take a leadership role.
- Provided a guide to explain how to recruit students
- Meetings each week for updates
- Research team supported with having an email template and a document to track recruitment

Recommendations:

- Have a document ready (task analysis) for recruitment
- Discuss purpose of recruitment for study participants and role of researchers
- Document the recruitment process
- Self-reflection: What did I expect of recruitment vs. realities



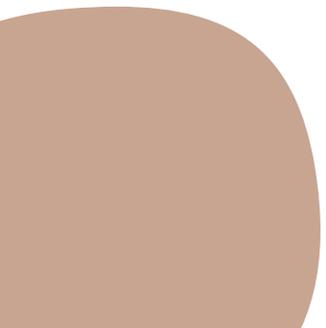
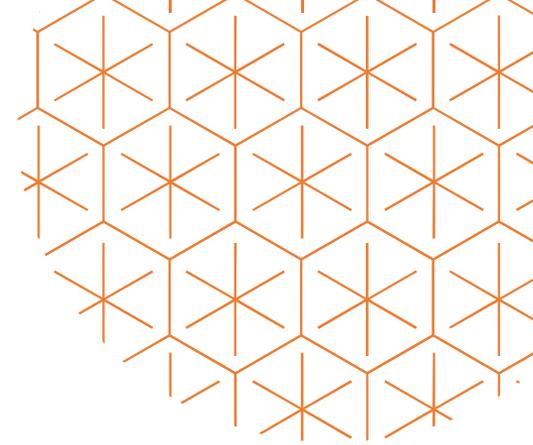
Step 3: Data Collection

What did we do?

- Purpose: Essential to furthering interests and goals of co-researchers, platform for collaboration, and strengthen voice on the team.
- Provided a template of focus group interview questions and survey questions. Co-researchers provided their feedback and input
- Simplified and honest terminology
- Took notes to capture everyone's thoughts
- Did not participate in focus group due to anonymity
- Students required initial probing but took leadership once they became more comfortable with the research process.

Recommendations:

- Templates for research instruments as a reference
- Explain research terminology
- Interest based roles: Not all wanted to support with survey portion



Step 4: Analysis

What did we do?

- Purpose: Gain valuable perspectives from co-researchers based on how they analyzed and interpreted the data.
- Limited participation due to lack of domain knowledge
- Instead, the researchers presented the analysis and asked specific questions to capture co-researchers' input
- Qualitative analysis was more appealing than quantitative

Recommendations:

- Invite co-researchers to see the analysis process
- Ask specific questions about findings (beyond agree or disagree)
- Task Analysis of what the findings “tell us”
- Could conduct a training in Qual or Quan methods if co-researchers are interested
- Remember: In every team, the opportunity for each role is offered, but everyone's expertise, experiences, and interests are different.

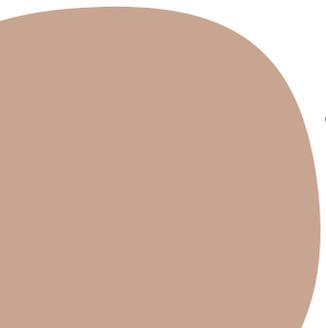
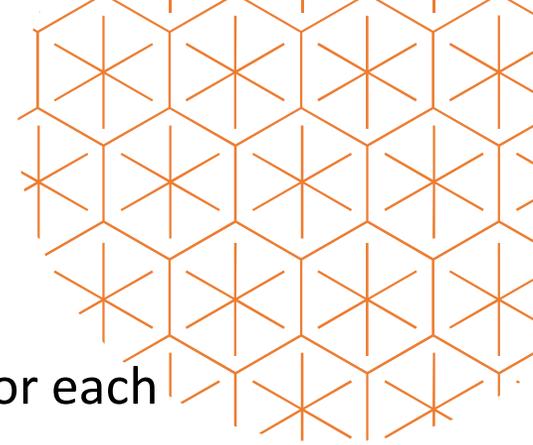
Step 5: Manuscript

What did we do?

- Purpose: Enhance writing skills, offer opportunity for publication, and answer “So what?”
 - Integration as a full-circle
- Support with writing and transcribing as necessary
- Templates and examples of manuscripts
- Individual writing support for each co-researcher
- Emphasis on integrity of each original thought
- Explained benefits of authorship, including a platform to reach many

Recommendations:

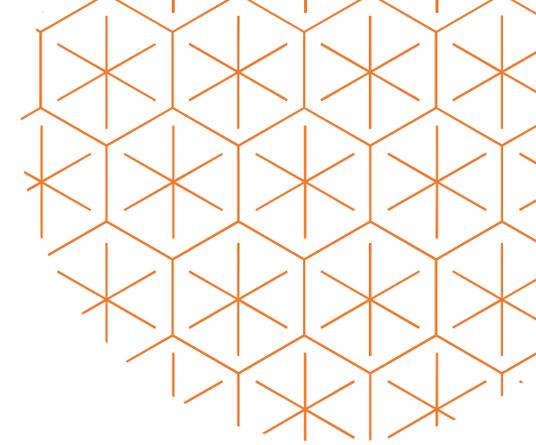
- Model small writing samples for each section of the manuscript
 - What does academic writing look like?
- Opportunity to interact with other campus resources
 - writing courses, writing center, academic tutoring
- Using speech to text to support with writing or other software
 - Disability resources on campus
- Peers as writing supports



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Experiences of Co-Researchers in Inclusive Research Teams

Why Did I join an Inclusive Research Team?

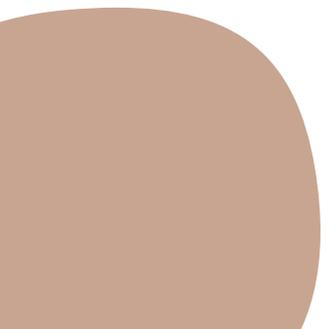


Courtney:

- To show my knowledge and experiences of k-12
- I wanted to grow as a person and learn from others' experiences
- I was also interested in the topic of friendships
- I wanted to collaborate and work as a team

Lexi:

- I wanted to have fun on a team
- To have more confidence
- I wanted to make new friends
- I wanted to learn more about research



Some of The Things I Did On The Research Team

Courtney & Lexi:

- I brought in my perspectives and experiences of a person with a disability
- Developing interview questions
- Developed research questions
- Supported with survey distribution to professors and students
- Supported with data analysis from focus group interviews
- Supported with writing the manuscript
- Supported with conference presentations
- Attended all research team meetings and actively participated in conversations



What I Learned From Being On The Research Team

Courtney:

- I used the skills to apply in my own life experiences
- I used research to advocate for my own experiences
- Improved my writing skills
- Gained more confidence as a writer

Lexi:

- I learned how to be a researcher on a research team
- More confidence when presenting at conferences
- I feel good being in a research team
- How research is conducted



Our Recommendations for Other IPSE Students for Joining Research Teams

Courtney:

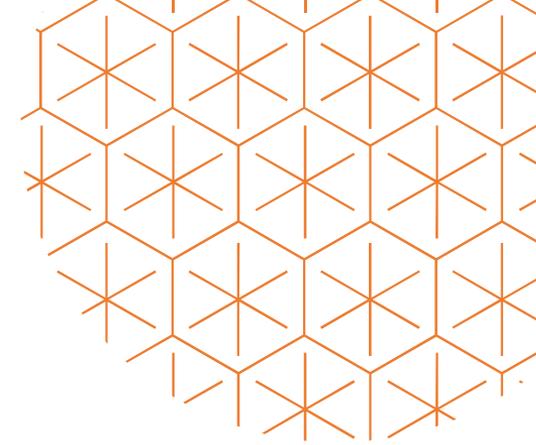
- Invite students
- Have a presentation that talks about the study and key research ideas
- Get ideas from IPSE students for research-survey

Lexi:

- Ask during program recruitment if students would like to join research teams
- Ask questions that would get students interested



Our Recommendations for Inclusive Research Teams



Courtney:

- Internal survey of background, comfort levels, and expertise when forming a team
 - What does your life experience look like?

Lexi:

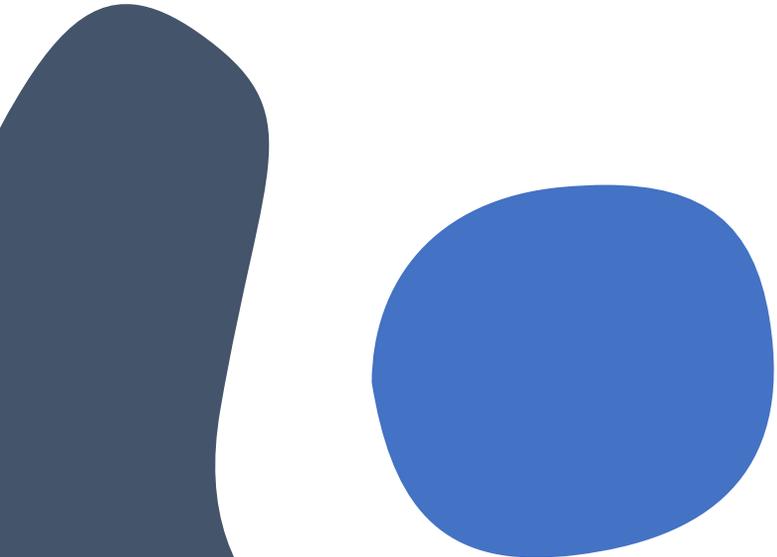
- Find out how people feel on research teams
- Understand improvement of skills and expertise before and after research team





**How Comfortable Are You with
Leading Inclusive Research
Teams NOW?**





What does your timeline
look like for inclusive
research teams?

One Day or Day One?

***“You never know what you might gain
from this experience if you’ve never
been part of a research team before.”***



Courtney Osburn

Thank You!

**Please Feel Free to Send Your Questions to Sehrish
Shikarpurya**

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