



Wayne College

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SUMMARY: WAYNE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES NEW DEGREE

Orrville, Ohio, Nov. 28, 2006 – The University of Akron Wayne College announces its newest program, the associate of applied science paraprofessional education-intervention specialist. The college will begin admitting students into the program for the spring 2007 semester.

The new degree is designed to prepare students for educational aide positions in classrooms for students with special needs, an area in demand in Wayne's service area and the State of Ohio. It also provides a seamless path into the baccalaureate education degree offered at the Akron campus, thereby creating an option for students to advance their professional preparation from associate to bachelor's to master's degrees. This program also meets licensure requirements of the Ohio Department of Education as a highly qualified paraprofessional.

Dr. Paulette Popovich, associate dean of instruction at Wayne College, is excited about the college's new associate degree.

"This program represents a new and key element in a degree pipeline for students interested in the education profession. There hasn't previously been an option between a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree available in our area. We're pleased to have another option for our students, and we're very pleased with the collaboration between Wayne College and the College of Education. There's always so much work behind the scenes before we can unveil a new degree program."

Dr. Denise Uitto, assistant professor of education and the college's newest full-time faculty member, will coordinate the program for Wayne. She is looking forward to "working with people who have a passion to help children who find school especially challenging. This is a great opportunity to learn techniques involved with serving young students with special needs in our public schools."

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