



University Achievement Awards

California State University, Long Beach

Early Career Excellence Award



Dr. Cara Richards

Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling

In her fifth year at CSULB, Dr. Cara Richards is recognized in the Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling Department as an up and coming scholar whose work is advancing early reading instruction for English language learners.

Since coming to CSULB, Dr. Richards has written several research articles, presented at national and international conferences, and collaborated with school districts to enhance teacher training. This year, she published her first book, *Early Reading Intervention: Strategies and Methods for Struggling Readers*, with Jill Leafstedt. The book provides teachers with a hands-on approach to teaching reading to struggling readers through data-based decision making and the unique Core Intervention Model of Instruction.

For four years, Dr. Richards has been involved in the Center for the Research on the Educational Achievement of English Learners (CREATE), the only national research and development center for English learners, and serves as a co-principle investigator with Dr. Jana Echevarria and Dr. Deborah Short for one project in the center, The Impact of the SIOP Model on Middle School Science and Language Learning.

In 2006, she was elected to the executive board for the Council for Exceptional Children, Division of Research, enhancing CSULB's recognition nationally. She has also served on the Executive Board of the Consortium for Professional Development.

Locally, Dr. Richards participates in the Special Education Teacher Partnership, a collaboration between CSULB, Cerritos College, and local school districts that is designed to provide students in schools with better instruction and prevent them from developing disabilities through a Response to Intervention (RTI) model.