**Thread: Professional**

**Subgroup: Community**

**Foci: All**

**Program Title: Students with Special Needs Speaker Series**

**Contact Person/Office: Sharon Byrne**

**School : Saint Ignatius College Prep**

**Program Description:**

**Once per quarter, guest speakers are invited to school to provide teachers with resources and support for helping students with special needs, differentiating instruction and understanding the pressures teenagers face.**

**Rationale: Considering our limited resources for students with different learning abilities, these professionals offer new perspectives, strategies for teaching and other resources for understanding the difficulties some students face.**

**Leadership: Guidance Department Chair**

**Implementation: The counseling department chair proposed the speaker series and submitted a proposal for the program and has arranged for the speakers, food service and feedback surveys.**

**Processes and Resources: Sharon Byrne, our Counseling Department Chair, asks teachers for suggestions and invites professionals from various educational fields. They come during an all-school free period, present for an hour and provide materials.**

**Finances: $1,000.00 for food for faculty, honorarium for speakers (which is usually donated back to the school)**

**Rewards: Information, resources and ideas for teachers to help struggling students**

**Time (When/Length): 4x / year, one hour**

**Location (Space): 5th floor balcony (space that seats around 60)**

**Accountability/Assessment: Surveys are sent out to faculty for feedback and suggestions for the next year’s speakers**