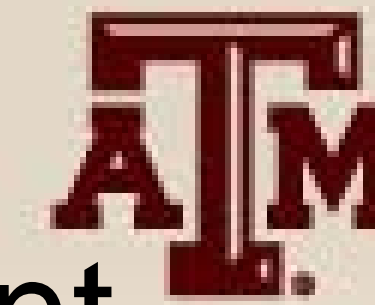




# Montague – CTE Scholar Mandy Rispoli (2012-2013)

College of Education and Human Development



**CENTER FOR TEACHING  
EXCELLENCE**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Hands-On Experiences Prepare Future Autism Teachers and Researchers

### Future Teachers

The Montague Scholar Award has funded undergraduate students in the Special Education Program to serve as interventionists at the Autism Clinic at the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center.



This experience positively impacted the undergraduate students and the local community. With faculty mentorship, the students provided direct services to young children with autism and worked collaboratively with local families.

These experiences allowed the students to apply concepts and skills learned in their special education coursework to a setting to which they would otherwise not be exposed. They gained new skills relating to teaching children with autism through this intensive, hands-on experience.

Local families benefited by receiving intervention services for their child that they otherwise would not be able to afford.



### Future Researchers

The Montague Scholar Award funded undergraduate students to assist in cutting-edge research studies exploring ways to improve outcomes for young children with autism. Students assisted in implementing study protocols, data collection, and data analysis. Such experiences have helped each of the students to be accepted into top graduate programs in special education across Texas!



### Student Perspectives

“I was unaware of the tremendous effect that my time at the Clinic would have on my growth as an educator and as a human being. I have witnessed my clients improving their skills and felt myself improving as a teacher and person throughout my time at the Clinic.”

~ Madeline

“My progress graph speaks for itself!”

~ Rachel

