

# AUCDigest February 2014

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# AUCD Central Office News

## [Achieving Healthy Weight for People with Disabilities: New Issue Briefs Available from the CDC-NCBDDD](#)

There are five new issue briefs that describe what people and organizations can do to help combat obesity among people with disabilities and assist them in achieving healthy weight and an improved quality of life. CDC's Division of Human Development and Disability at the NCBDDD released the briefs, each targeted at specific audiences including: communities, health departments, employers, schools and healthcare professionals. [Read more...](#)

## [Jessiemarie Voigt, MPH, is AUCD's Early Career Professionals' February Guest Blogger](#)

AUCD is happy to announce the Early Career Professionals' February guest blogger – Jessiemarie Voigt, MPH. Jessiemarie completed a year-long LEND fellowship at the University of Arizona in Tucson while completing her Masters of Public Health. The AZ LEND program helped her recognize a passion she had for bridging the gap between research and services. LEND also provided her with the tools to take action. She now spends her days carrying out research recommendations in the field. She works at Community Living, Inc., an agency that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as a Supported Employment Specialist in Louisville, KY. Please take a moment to read “Mentors, Networking, and Elevator Speeches”. [Read more...](#)

# Network News – Awards & Honors

## [Maine UCEDD Receives APLU Exemplary Program Award for Community Engagement](#)

The University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (ME UCEDD) has received a 2013 Exemplary Program Award from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) in recognition of 20 years of commitment to community engagement. APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization representing 219 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and related organizations. [Read more...](#)

## [Whittier Law School 2014 Distinguished Alumni Service Award \(MD UCEDD\)](#)

Maureen van Stone, the Associate Director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute, will be honored by the Dean of Whittier Law School at the Alumni Awards & Reunion Reception in Long Beach, California. Ms. van Stone will receive the "2014 Distinguished Alumni Service Award" for her advocacy on behalf of children with disabilities throughout Maryland. [Read more...](#)

# Network News – People on the Move

## [Maryland's Chief Judge Appoints Chief of Staff \(MD UCEDD\)](#)

Victoria Z. Sulerzyski, an attorney who specializes in estate planning and special needs trusts for the Baltimore-based law firm of Ober|Kaler, has been selected as Chief of Staff by Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera. [Read more...](#)

# Network News - Activities & Resources

## [Video on Early Childhood Intervention: The Power of Family](#)

The Open Society Foundations has published a new video entitled Early Childhood Intervention: The Power of Family (December 2013). This 7:35 minute video features leaders in the field of early childhood development from around the world discussing the benefits of early childhood intervention and the key importance of families to the early intervention process - with input from AUCD network members. [Read more...](#)

## [ICI \(ICI MA UCEDD/LEND\) Awarded Grant on Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disability and Autism](#)

The Think College team at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), in partnership with Boston Public Schools, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, the University of Massachusetts, and Roxbury Community College, was just awarded an Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will provide \$2.375 million in research funds, focused around supporting young people with autism and intellectual disability as they transition from high school to college. [Read more...](#)

## [Act Early Connecticut \(UCONN UCEDD\) Releases Clinical Guidelines for a Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

The Connecticut Guidelines for a Clinical Diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder are a direct result of collaborative efforts that were initiated under the Act Early Summit Project. Connecticut's stakeholders participated in the Act Early Summit in April, 2010. A key goal identified at the summit by the Connecticut Team was the publication of clinical diagnostic guidelines specific to Connecticut. [Read more...](#)

## [Putting Faith to Work: Kessler Foundation Employment Grant Awarded to Four \(KY, MN, TN, TX\) UCEDDs](#)

A collaboration of four UCEDDs were awarded a nearly half-million dollar Signature Employment Grant from the Kessler Foundation focused on building the capacity of faith communities to support employment for members with disabilities. The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (TN UCEDD) will serve as the lead site for the Putting Faith To Work project, under the direction of Erik Carter and Courtney Taylor. Partners include the Human Development Institute (KY UCEDD; Milt Tyree and Harold Kleinert), the Texas Center for Disability Studies (TX UCEDD; Penny Seay and Bill Gaventa), and the Institute on Community Integration (MN UCEDD; Angela Amado, Derek Nord, and Joe

Timmons). All UCEDDs are members of the recently launched National Collaborative on Disabilities, Religion, and Spiritual Supports. [Read more...](#)  
Updates from MT UCEDD

### **[UM Rural Institute \(MT UCEDD\) Awarded Grant from OSERS](#)**

Innovative studies on issues in rural America are underway at the University of Montana Rural Institute, thanks to a five-year grant of \$4.38 million through the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. [Read more...](#)

### **[The Science of Health and Wellness for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(MT UCEDD\)](#)**

University of Montana Rural Institute researchers are helping to set a national agenda on health and disability. Dr. Kathleen Humphries, a nutrition researcher at the Rural Institute and the UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences is among national leaders identifying what we know and what we need to know to reduce health disparities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. [Read more...](#)

### **[Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and UT Boling Center \(TN UCEDDs/LENDs\) Announce Availability of IDD Healthcare E-Toolkit](#)**

With funding from the Special Hope Foundation, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (TN UCEDD/LEND) and the UT Boling Center (TN UCEDD/LEND), working with the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, have developed an online toolkit for health care providers: Health Care For Adults With Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities: A Toolkit for Primary Care Providers (IDD Toolkit). Now available online at [www.iddtoolkit.org](http://www.iddtoolkit.org), the IDD Toolkit offers health care providers best-practice tools and a wealth of information regarding specific medical and behavioral concerns of adults with IDD, including resources for patients and families. [Read more...](#)

### **[Early Childhood Personnel Center \(UCONN UCEDD\) Releases Personnel Standards for Every State](#)**

Early Childhood Personnel Center serves as a national resource on personnel standards, competencies, and recommended practices; The Center will also be assisting States in aligning personnel standards to national professional organization standards for personnel who serve children with disabilities and their families, integrating those standards with standards for EC personnel of all children, and linking those standards to state competencies and certification or licensure requirements; In January 2014 ECPC released a searchable data base of all personnel standards for professional disciplines serving infants and young children (age birth to five) and their families. [Read more...](#)

### **[The PEERS Curriculum for School-Based Professionals \(USE CA UCEDD\)](#)**

The PEERS® School-Based Training is designed exclusively for educators, mental health specialists, and school-based professionals who are interested in learning and/or implementing the PEERS® intervention and research in the school setting. This is a unique training designed to provide professionals with the tools to implement the intervention outlined in the new PEERS® Curriculum for School-Based Professionals

(Laugeson, 2013), which brings UCLA's highly acclaimed and widely popular PEERS® intervention into the school setting. [Read more...](#)

### **[Online Graduate Certificate Program: Positive Behavior Support \(FL UCEDD\)](#)**

The The University of South Florida and the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities offer a fully online Graduate Certificate in Positive Behavior Support (PBS). This 12 credit hour course of study prepares individuals from mental health, school psychology, school administration, education, early education, and social work to be effective members of the school, early childhood, or individual support team implementing PBS. [Read more...](#)

## **Member Spotlight**

### **[STEP UP Council \(MS UCEDD\) Sponsors Fun-Filled Game Day at The Rock](#)**

The Southern Miss football team has recently experienced a series of disappointing losses. However, on Sept. 25 when the STEP UP (Starting Today Empowering Peers through Uniting and Participating) to Leadership Council hosted the Arc's Rise and Shine adult program, winning ruled the day. The STEP UP to Leadership Council is composed of youth and young adults with and without disabilities. Council members serve as leaders within their schools, colleges/universities, and communities.

[Read more...](#)

## **Events**

### **[The Southeast Regional Consortium and AUCD Presents: Emerging Transformational Leadership Program](#)**

February 19 | 2pm - 3pm EST

### **[Disability Policy Seminar Orientation For Students, Trainees, and Early Career Professionals](#)**

March 11 | 3pm - 4pm EST

[Read more about our webinars and register.](#)

### **[The Spectrum of Developmental Disabilities XXXVI: Intellectual Disability: At the Precipice](#)**

March 17-19, 2014 | Baltimore MD

### **[2014 Disability Policy Seminar Trainee Symposium](#)**

April 6, 2014 | Washington, DC

### **Registration Now Open! 2014 Disability Policy Seminar**

April 7-9, 2014 | Washington, DC

### **11th Annual National Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior**

April 23-25, 2014 | St. Petersburg, FL

### **30th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity**

May 19 - 20, 2014 | Honolulu, HI

### **2014 Training Institutes**

July 16-19, 2014 | Washington DC

## **Employment Opportunities**

Please check the [Employment page](#) on our website for opportunities within the AUCD network.

## **Stay Connected...**

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## **Our Network Members**

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD)

- Visit the [UCEDD page](#).

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs

- Visit the [LEND page](#).

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs)

- Visit the [IDDRC page](#).

Trainees and Early Career professionals (ECP) at all member Centers

- Visit the [Trainee/ECP page](#).

## Submissions

News items may be submitted for consideration via the [AUCDigest Submission page](#).

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