

# AUCDigest January 2015

January 2015 | Vol. XIII, Issue 26

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# AUCD Central Office News

## [Check Out Our New Look: AUCD Disability Policy In Brief](#)

In Brief" brings the latest in disability policy to your email or social media feed every Monday. We've redesigned and reprogrammed In Brief, making it easier to find, read, share, and subscribe. View the first issue of 2015, covering the start of the 114th Congress and litigation on the Department of Labor's Home Care Rule. [Read more...](#)

## [Introducing "Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All](#)

"Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All" is a brief weekly video spot produced by AUCD featuring policy staffer Liz Weintraub discussing current disability policy issues. These videos are a compliment to AUCD's popular written publication of "AUCD Disability Policy News In Brief" and are designed to make oftentimes complex policy issues more easy for everyone, including individuals with disabilities and self-advocates, to understand. [Read more...](#)

## [2015 UCEDD Leadership Institute - Registration is Open!](#)

After another successful year, the UCEDD Leadership Institute will be back in 2015! Please consider recommending your staff for the 2015 class of future UCEDD leaders representing the full diversity of the country. [Read more...](#)

# Network News – Awards & Honors

## [Vanderbilt Kennedy Center \(TN UCEDD, IDDRC\) Director Receives 2014 NADD Research Award](#)

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (TN UCEDD, IDDRC) Director Elisabeth Dykens, Ph.D., was recently awarded the inaugural Research Award from NADD, an association for persons with developmental disabilities and mental health needs. The award was presented at the 2014 NADD Conference held in November in San Antonio, TX. [Read more...](#)

## [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Career Path Receives Access Achievement Award from Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities \(CHOP PA LEND\)](#)

CHOP Career Path program received the Access Achievement Award from the Mayor's Commission of People with Disabilities on Oct. 30. The award is given to businesses, organizations and nonprofits that have made outstanding efforts to improve and increase access for people with disabilities throughout the Delaware Valley. [Read more...](#)

# Network News - Activities & Resources

## [New Hippotherapy Program Benefits Iowa Children with Disabilities \(IA UCEDD\)](#)

Katie Jo Risma, a physical therapist at the Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD-Iowa's UCEDD) recently completed her first year of providing hippotherapy, serving seven Iowa children with physical disabilities ages 3-13 over the course of three six-week sessions. Hippotherapy is a technique which utilizes the dynamic movement of a horse to assist patients in reaching their therapy goals. [Read more...](#)

### **Universal Design for Education Training (WV UCEDD)**

The Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) and Academic Innovation are excited to offer this course to ensure that students with disabilities (and all students) receive an equal opportunity for a quality education at schools, colleges and universities. [Read more...](#)

### **Institute Hosts Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. Press Conference on ABLE Act (PA UCEDD)**

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, Pennsylvania's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities hosted a press conference for Robert P. Casey, Jr., U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, on the university's main campus on Friday, December 5. The senator addressed the Achieving a Better Life Experience ("ABLE") Act, which passed in the US House of Representatives two days earlier. [Read more...](#)

## **Connecticut UCEDD Updates**

### **Connecticut UCEDD Advocates Campaign for Closure of State Institutions**

The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities (DDC), in partnership with the ARC Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CT UCEDD) launched a long overdue campaign: 2020: Close the DDS (CT Department of Developmental Services) Institutions. [Read more...](#)

### **The CT Developmental Disabilities Network Sponsors Employment Conference**

The CT DDN (The University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, The Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities) sponsored Endless Possibilities: Real Employment for Persons with Disabilities on December 8, 2014 for self-advocates, employers, service providers and family members. [Read more...](#)

### **WIND ECHO in Assistive Technology (WY UCEDD)**

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) at the University of Wyoming is translating the innovative ECHO model for use in education, specifically for assistive technology (AT). ECHO in AT allows individuals to receive training along with mentoring each week from a multidisciplinary team comprised of speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, assistive technology specialists, general special educators, and national AT trainers in order to allow more effective implementation of assistive technology for students. [Read more...](#)

## **UCS CA UCEDD Updates**

### [Upcoming Changes to Medicaid's Home & Community Based Services \(HCBS\) Regulations \(USC CA UCEDD\)](#)

In this webinar, Roberta Newton, Executive Director of Developmental Disabilities Area Board 10, will address the following topics: Introduction to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and to the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Regulations; The importance of CMS and HCBS for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Please share freely with your network. [Read more...](#)

### [TinkerToys vs Tonka Trucks: Creating a Parent - led Support Group Model Responsive to Participant Needs \(USC CA UCEDD\)](#)

Fran Goldfarb, MA, MCHES, Director of Family Support at the USC UCEDD at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, has worked on a First 5 LA grant with Children's Institute, Inc. (CII) to develop 100 support groups for parents of children 0-5 across Los Angeles County. The overall goal of the program is to develop opportunities for underserved, at-risk parents that foster social connections, reduce isolation, and encourage sharing of knowledge and skills. [Read more...](#)

### [Michael McSheehan \(NH UCEDD\) Is Keynote Speaker at 2014 TASH Conference](#)

On Wednesday, December 3, 2014, Michael McSheehan was the opening Keynote Speaker for the 2014 TASH Conference. His presentation with Michael Yudin, the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) at the U.S. Department of Education, titled "Equity in Education" used film, stories, and more than thirty years of research to demonstrate how the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classrooms creates equity and excellence for all. [Read more...](#)

### [UCEDDs Collaborate to Launch Webinar Series on Honoring Spiritual Needs and Gifts](#)

In January, the National Collaborative on Faith and Disability (TN, KY, TX, NJ, GA, VA, UT, MN, MO, CO, OR, & ME UCEDDs) will launch the new webinar series: Honoring Spiritual Needs and Gifts: From Inertia to Collaborative Action by Providers and Congregations. The series will run monthly, from January-June (excluding May), and will be free and available for viewing via Adobe Connect. [Read more...](#)

## **Community Updates**

### [Division of Human Development and Disability's New Director, Dr. Georgina Peacock](#)

Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP has been appointed as the Director of the Division of Human Development and Disability. Dr. Peacock has served as the Acting Director for the past four months, but she assumed the role permanently on Monday, December 15, 2014. [Read more...](#)

### **New Partnership with Maryland Centers for Independent Living Launches**

The MCDD launched a new project in partnership with the Maryland Department of Disabilities to assist community agencies in expanding their business capacity, including provision of Options Counseling, a planning service available to individuals in need of long-term support services in the community. The service is currently offered throughout Maryland at local Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) known as Maryland Access Point. [Read more...](#)

### **Call for Applications: Youth in International Development and Foreign Affairs Internship Program**

The summer 2015 Youth in International Development and Foreign Affairs internship program remains open for applications until January 28, 2015. The United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) launched its internship program in 2013. USICD's internship program focuses on youth with disabilities from across the U.S. who are interested in careers in international development or foreign affairs. [Read more...](#)

## **Member Spotlight**

### **The Institute on Disability's Center for START Services and NH LEND Program Announce a New Partnership**

The Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire is pleased to announce a unique graduate-level interdisciplinary partnership between the Center for START Services and the NH Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (NH LEND). [Read more...](#)

## **Events**

### **2015 LEND Directors and LEND/DBP Directors Strategic Thinking Meetings**

January 23, 2015 | Washington, DC

### **2015 Joint MCHB Training Grantee Meeting**

January 24, 2015 | Washington, DC

### **2015 AMCHP Conference: United to Build Healthier Communities**

January 24-27, 2015 | Washington, DC

### **Facing the Future 23 - Employment: The Possible Dream**

Friday, March 20, 2015 | New Brunswick, NJ

### **2015 UCEDD Directors Retreat and TA Institute**

March 25-27, 2015 | Bethesda, MD

### **USD Center for Disabilities 2015 Spring Symposium**

Monday, March 30, 2015, 2014 | Chamberlain, SD

[Next Chapter Book Club & Beyond: A conference on literacy for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities](#)

April 17-18, 2014 | Chicago, IL

[Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity](#)

May 18-19, 2014 | Honolulu, HI

[BIS 6th International Conference on Disabilities: Unity and Diversity in Action \(USC CA UCEDD/LEND\)](#)

May 18-19, 2015 | Tel Aviv, Israel

## 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](#).

This newsletter is in part supported by the Association, Administration on Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) through a technical assistance contract for the URC, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) through a technical assistance contract for the ITAC, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a National Professional Organization for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. The content of this material does not necessarily reflect the views and policies of any federal agency. No official support or endorsement by federal agencies is intended nor should be inferred.

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