



Press Statement

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**AUCD's "Tuesdays with Liz" Featuring Taryn MacKenzie Williams,
Associate Director of White House Office of Public Engagement,
Available on YouTube
WASHINGTON, DC — Tuesday, March 24th, 2015**

On Tuesday, March 24th, 2015, AUCD policy advocate, Liz Weintraub, had the honor of interviewing the Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, Taryn MacKenzie Williams. The interview is currently featured on AUCD's weekly video policy newsletter *Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All*, available now. The *Tuesdays with Liz* YouTube series provides cutting-edge policy news in a fun, accessible way to engage policy experts, constituents, students, and people with disabilities alike. In the three months since it was launched, *Tuesdays with Liz* has gained national viewership featuring esteemed guests including the ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee and lead Democratic sponsor of the ABLE Act, Congressman Van Hollen, among others. AUCD is thrilled to have the opportunity to feature Ms. Williams, whose passion, intelligence, and personal connection to people with disabilities have rendered her invaluable to our community.

Williams joined the White House on detail from the U.S. Department of Labor, where she served as a Senior Policy Advisor with the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). At ODEP, she delivered expertise on disability policy issues including workforce development, education, Medicaid, and Social Security. She also led work that enhances transition outcomes of youth with significant disabilities. Prior to joining ODEP, Williams worked as the Research Coordinator for Leadership Programs at the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) and as the Director of Programs at the National Association of Urban Debate Leagues (NAUDL) headquartered in Chicago.

Host Liz Weintraub's long history of disability advocacy has resulted in numerous honors, including an appointment by President Clinton to the President's Committee for Employment in 1993 and by President Obama to the President's Committee of People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2011. In addition to being an invaluable asset to AUCD's policy team, Weintraub is President of the Board of Directors for Shared Support Maryland and a founding board member of Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered. "I hope that by interviewing Ms. Williams," stated Weintraub, "the viewers of *Tuesdays with Liz* will appreciate how much people with disabilities are on the minds of those who work at the White House." Weintraub focused the discussion toward Ms. Williams' role at the White House, her former and future roles with The Department of Labor, and her hopes for the future of people with intellectual and other disabilities.

AUCD Executive Director Andrew J. Imparato stated, "Taryn Williams has done a phenomenal job helping the White House engage with the disability community. We appreciate her leadership and professionalism, and we are grateful to Valerie Jarrett, Paulette Aniskoff, and the public engagement

team at the White House for hiring great people like Taryn and Claudia Gordon to handle the disability portfolio.” The *Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All* episode featuring Taryn MacKenzie Williams can be viewed at www.aucd.org/inbrief. All episodes of *Tuesdays with Liz* are archived at the same location as well as on YouTube. Future *Tuesdays with Liz* webcasts will include an interview with Sharon Lewis, Principal Deputy Administrator, Administration for Community Living, among others. Stay tuned!

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), located in Silver Spring, MD, promotes and supports a national network of interdisciplinary centers on disabilities. The members of AUCD represent every U.S. state and territory. AUCD and its members work to advance policy and practice through research, education, leadership, and services for and with individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities. For more information, visit AUCD’s website, www.aucd.org.

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