

## Transcript

### 2015 AUCD Conference: Attendee Orientation Webinar

November 11, 2015

#### Slide 1

Hello. Welcome to the 2015 AUCD Conference: Attendee Orientation Webinar!

#### Slide 2

My name is Tanisha Clarke and I am a program manager here at AUCD, Association of University Centers on Disabilities. Today I will be presenting this webinar with my colleague Liz Weintraub, policy advocacy specialist and host of Tuesdays With Liz: Disability Policy For All; a more accessible policy brief intended to highlight major issues discussed in AUCD Disability Policy News In Brief. Before we began I would like to address a few logistical details.

#### Slide 3

Following the presentation there will be time for questions and answers. Because of the number of participants, your telephone lines will be muted throughout the call. However we will unmute your phones one at a time during the Q&A at the end. You will need to press star and then the # button on your phone to be unmuted so that you can ask your question. You can also submit questions at any point during the presentation via chat on your webinar consul. You may send a chat to the whole audience or to the presenters only. We will compile the questions throughout the webinar and address them at the end. Please note we may not be able to address every question and may combine some questions. This entire webinar is being recorded and will be available on AUCD's website following the webinar. A transcript and a copy of this PowerPoint will also be available online. Anna Costalas, AUCD's Resource and Dissemination Manager, is also on the call to assist with any technical difficulties. Thank you Anna!

#### Slide 4

The orientation webinar will provide an opportunity to answer your questions before you arrive here in DC so you can make the most of your AUCD 2015 conference experience. We will provide a brief overview of AUCD, address topics such as the conference dress code, the structure and content of the conference, sessions you may be interested in attending, meetings you can participate in and many more.

#### Slide 5

Before discussing the conference, we would like to provide a brief overview of AUCD. The Association of University Centers on Disabilities.

#### Slide 6

AUCD is a national network of over 100 university-based programs that conduct research, training, and advocacy to improve the quality of life of children and adults with disabilities.

#### **Slide 7**

AUCD's mission is to advance policies and practices that improve the health, education, social, and economic well-being of all people with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and their communities by supporting our members in research, education, health, and service activities that achieve our vision.

#### **Slide 8**

This is a copy of our 2015-2016 Strategic Map outlining five key priority areas and corresponding sub-goals for our organization and network over the next two years. Those 5 key areas are 1) Enhance visibility and reach; 2) Broaden impact on policy, practice, and research; 3) Expand and strengthen network engagement and collaboration; 4) Increase diverse and sustainable funding; and 5) Champion and model diversity, equity, and inclusion. This serves as a guide for our collective work and mission to empower and equip the AUCD staff and network membership to increase the power of AUCD by strengthening our network, engaging the public, and expanding our impact to the broader disability community and other key stakeholders. You can view this in detail on our website at [www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org).

#### **Slide 9**

How did the AUCD network start?...This actually started over 50 years ago. When John F. Kennedy became president in 1961, he appointed a panel on mental retardation. The panel consisted of scientists, doctors, and others who were asked to prepare a plan of action in the field of mental retardation. This was personal for President Kennedy because he also had a sister with a disability.

#### **Slide 10**

In 1962, the president's panel on mental retardation presented to him over 100 recommendations and urged him to think and plan boldly. The concept of university-based facilities for people with developmental disabilities came from the recommendations addressed in the reports developed by the panel. The report identified a need for training to address the critical shortage of trained personnel. It emphasized the need for research and statistical data, it addressed the shortage of buildings and facilities to conduct research and provide training programs, and the report documented the lack of coordination between agencies at both state and federal level. As a result of legislation signed into law by President John F. Kennedy, the first university-based facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities, known as UAFs - University Affiliated Facilities, were authorized in 1963.

#### **Slide 11**

In 1987, the University affiliated facilities were renamed to UAPs or University Affiliated Programs. And in 2000 UAP's were renamed to what is now UCEDDs, University Centers of Excellence in Development Disabilities. Currently AUCD represents 67 across the country with at least one center in every state and territory. Each UCEDD is affiliated with a major research university. AUCD's network members also

consist of Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Programs funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and 15 Intellectual and Developmental Disability Research Centers (IDDRC), most of which are funded by the National Institute for Child Health and Development (NICHD).

#### **Slide 12**

The AUCD networks serve as a resource for local state, national, and international agencies, organizations and policymakers concerned about people with disabilities and their families. They train and educate the next generation of leaders on disability related research, training, service delivery, and policy advocacy. Members engage in many activities including those listed here. Academic training; services for children, adults, and families; basic and applied research; training and technical assistance to schools, communities, and state and local government; policy advocacy; program evaluation; and dissemination of best practices and new information.

#### **Slide 13**

The AUCD's central office is located in the DC Metro area. We support and promote our national network of programs. Andy Imparato serves as the executive director. Our complete staff listing can be found on our website.

#### **Slide 14**

AUCD is governed by an elected board of directors that includes professionals, individuals with disabilities and family members. Current president Dr. Olivia Raynor is the Director of the Tarjan Center at UCLA, one of the UCEDDs in California.

#### **Slide 15**

The Board of Directors has established a number of committees and councils made up of experts in the field to help the Board address emerging trends and issues, and to facilitate communication across and beyond the AUCD network. The chairpersons of each council also hold a seat on AUCD's board of directors and therefore is part of the governing party of the organization. Our current councils are the Community Education and Dissemination Council, the Council on Community Advocacy, the Council on Research and Evaluation, the Multicultural Council, and the National Training Directors Council.

#### **Slide 16**

We also have special interest groups or SIGs. They are made up of individuals in the AUCD network who have common topic interests. SIGs are open to anyone in the network including trainees. SIGs serve as a way to generate and share information. They typically share information by emails, conference calls or webinars throughout the year, most of them also meet at the conference in person. Now, because SIGs are driven by the interest of the AUCD membership you'll notice that new ones will emerge at any time while others disband.

### **Slide 17**

The AUCD Conference brings together diverse network members, partners from outside the network, and experts from the field to help us all develop as leaders. This year's theme, "Growing Leaders, Driving Change," will examine how we develop strong leaders, support them in their work, and collaborate with others to reach our mutual goals. Whether you're a newcomer to the field or a seasoned professional, the AUCD Conference provides countless opportunities to share with and learn from colleagues and peers. The 2015 AUCD Conference will feature over 200 concurrent and poster presentations over the days of the conference on topics ranging from policy to research to state and community projects and much more, offering a many opportunities for discussion.

### **Slide 18**

General logistics. The 2015 AUCD conference will take place at the Renaissance Washington DC downtown hotel, from Sunday, November 15, through Wednesday, November 18. If you are staying at the hotel check-in is that 3 PM or later and check-out is at 12 noon or earlier. Sunday, offers 5 exciting Driving Change sessions that will provide an interactive learning and sharing environment centered around the five key priorities of the AUCD Strategic Map. These sessions are free so be sure to attend.

### **Slide 19**

The area around the hotel has become a hub for arts and entertainment. There are plenty art galleries and theatres around. The neighborhood also features many different restaurants, nightclubs, and trendy stores. Most within a 3 block radius of the hotel. The conference hotel has a few dining options as well so you don't even have to go far to get a quick snack, coffee, lunch, or even a great dinner. The prices of each activity vary, but there is so much to choose from that we are sure you will find something to suit your desire. You can get a list of nearby restaurants and things to do from the concierge desk. We also have a list of a few accessible restaurants that Liz and a friend were able to gather that are in the area and that will also be available at the registration desk. You should contact places directly though to check their accessibility.

### **Slide 20**

Dress code. Attendees typically dress in business attire. They range from business casual to general business like some of the images seen here. This is a networking opportunity therefore we just really suggest that you dress professionally.

### **Slide 21**

AUCD staff offers select conference materials available on flash drives; CART transcription and sign language interpreters during the plenary sessions and awards celebrations; a quiet room for people who need a sensory break; accessible parking and facilities; and more for individuals with who request or need accommodations. Please see a member of the staff if you would like assistance with any of these accommodations. You will see the staff with red ribbons, and please do ask if you need support.

## **Slide 22**

AUCD also tries very hard to make this conference a fragrance free event for the safety and comfort of those with chemical and environmental sensitivities. Please do not wear perfume or cologne, and do not use products such as aftershave, hair sprays, and lotions at any point during the conference or side meetings. Please plan in advance.

## **Slide 23**

We have a free conference app to provide you with real-time conference information wherever you are. Plan your visit, create your own personal conference schedule, connect with attendees, and even share your experience on social media. Just download and begin using the app right now. Before you even get here. We will have an accessible guide on how to use the app available at the registration desk if you need it.

Thank you Liz. Again like Liz said, the mobile app is available now. To download the app you need to download guidebook through the Apple app store or the Android marketplace and once you have downloaded guidebook, then you search within Guidebook for AUCD 2015. Everything is in the app and so it's a very important tool that we recommend that everyone access. You will still get a printed program, but the app will have real life information in case there are any changes to the schedule, any updates and then again it also allows you to connect with other attendees at the conference.

## **Slide 24**

So now you know where you are going. Your outfits are prepared, and you have downloaded the conference app, you are ready to come. When you arrive to the conference hotel, you will notice that the hotel has several levels. The conference will be on both the ballroom level, and the meeting room level. Both levels are accessible by elevators. This map will also be included in the conference program and on the conference app.

## **Slide 25**

When you first arrive, we ask that you please check in at the registration desk which will be located on the ballroom level of the hotel. Here you will pick up your conference program and your name badge. We will have new attendee ribbons that you can grab and attach to your name badge if it is your first time. Board and staff members will have ribbons identifying them too. If you at any time have any questions you can find someone with either of the ribbons saying Board or Staff, or you can stop by the registration desk. We will also have some wonderful buttons designed by your very own AUCD staff. It is an opportunity to add some flair to your badges, and a great way to show your affiliations within the network. They will have around 15 different buttons to choose from and again it is just another way to connect with others. The registration desk will be open on Sunday from 8 AM to 4 PM and then on both Monday and Tuesday from 7 AM to 4 PM.

## **Slide 26**

As a participant on this webinar, you get a sneak peek at the conference program. The printed conference program will look very much like this. It will start off with the table of contents and will be organized in a way that you can easily follow and find the things that you need.

#### **Slide 27**

There will be an agenda at a glance which will specify as you can see the event name, times, and locations of each session.

#### **Slide 28**

Throughout the program you will find detailed information on each session, or event, and then the listing of presenters. The most current information will be in the conference app in case there are any last-minute changes.

#### **Slide 29**

New in 2015, we will offer 5 free Driving Change Sessions that provide an interactive learning and sharing environment centered around the five key priorities of the AUCD Strategic Map. You should participate in one of these five sessions to hear from and share ideas with leaders from around the network on successes and best practices in the areas of visibility and reach; policy, practice, and research; network engagement and leadership development; funding; and diversity, inclusion, and equity. These sessions will take place on Sunday, November 15 and are free for all registered conference attendees. Sessions include:

- Expand Your Visibility and Reach to Drive Change
- Driving Change and Growing Leaders in Policy, Practice and Research
- Successes in Strengthening Network Engagement, Collaboration and Growing Leaders
- Growing Diverse and Sustainable Funding Streams
- Taking the Lead: Driving Change in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

If you did not register when you initially registered for the conference prior to the closing in October, you can still attend if any of these are still of interest to you.

#### **Slide 30**

As we talked about earlier the Councils are meeting on Sunday and the Special Interest Groups or SIGs are meeting on Monday and Tuesday during lunch. SIGs are meeting on the topics including autism, emergency preparedness, spiritual supports, family support, abuse and neglect, health and disability, postsecondary education, early intervention, aging, communications, assistive technology, mental health, and sexual health. All council meetings and SIGs are open for any interested network member including trainees to attend. Please find these on the schedule if you are interested in these topic areas and you are welcome to sit in.

**Slide 31**

We will be hosting a training networking session on Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:30 in grand ballroom north. The session is specifically for trainees to network with fellow trainees from around the country and meet people who work in their field of interest. There will be several activities scheduled throughout the session. What you need to bring is yourself and your business cards, if you have them.

**Slide 32**

On Sunday evening there will be a sibling gathering in meeting room 15. If you are a sibling of a person with a disability or a sibling supporter, AUCD and the national sibling leadership network are hosting a meet and greet that will provide an opportunity for networking as well as learning about sibling movement. The common discussions include sibling research, services and support, and policy and advocacy that is happening around the country.

**Slide 33**

Attendees have the opportunity to view short videos from around the network during lunchtime on Monday and Tuesday of the conference. The Network Media Room highlights how AUCD members have leveraged multimedia technology to expand their visibility and reach. Stop by to view short video clips highlighting ADA celebrations, national disability month, PSA's, stories of individuals, program initiatives, and more. Descriptions are listed in the program and in the conference app. Grab your lunch and join us to see what your network colleagues have been producing and get some ideas of your own. Free popcorn available!

**Slide 34**

We will also be providing continental breakfast on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning.

**Slide 35**

AUCD poster symposia seek to deepen levels of engagement and connection between those interested in common topics. Posters have been hand-selected by a review committee and grouped by room according to theme. Themes are: 1) Engagement of Trainees and Community Members (the Training Symposium), 2) Improving Health Systems to Drive Change, 3) Early Childhood Strategies, 4) Behavior Supports & Mental Health, 5) Self-Determination & Advocacy Leadership, 6) Using Technology in the Classroom and Community, 7) Training Trainees, and 8) Post-secondary Education, Employment, and What Comes Next. Facilitators will open each poster symposia with broad thoughts about the room's theme, and attendees will be allotted ample time for in-depth exploration of the information presented and make connections with others in the room. Attendees are free to select one symposia to attend during each time slot; pre-registration is not required. But space is filled on a first-come first-served basis so we ask that you be there on time. The session will repeat so you will have an opportunity to participate in 2 sessions. The first session is from 9:00am - 10:15am and then repeated 10:30am - 11:45am.

### Slide 36

Monday night from 5:15 to 7:00 we will host a welcome reception and the standard poster session in the Congressional Hall and Grand Ballroom South. The AUCD poster session and welcome reception is a time to connect with other conference attendees while browsing a selection of posters highlighting just a few of the influential research projects and network initiatives. All attendees are welcome and should attend this event.

### Slide 37

You will be able to view all the submitted posters electronically through the AUCD 2015 app. Another reason why you should download this app. You can view the poster button on your app with a link to the poster, their description and view the actual image of the poster.

### Slide 38

We are excited this year because we will have three great plenaries lined up for you. There are no conflicting events during these times so everyone participates in the plenaries! The plenaries feature high-profile leaders and amazing speakers that you do not want to miss. Each plenary will take place in the grand ballroom. Monday afternoon is the first plenary on “Growing Leaders, Driving Change.” The second plenary is on Tuesday morning and that will be on the “Driving Change Through Data and Technology at the Federal Level and Beyond.” And then we will end off on Wednesday morning with a plenary on “Growing Leaders and Driving Change in Transition.”

### Slide 39

The conference also features concurrent sessions. So on Monday and Tuesday we will feature 50 concurrent sessions from which you can choose on a wide range of disability related topics. During each time segment, listed here, there are 15 sessions going on at the same time that you can choose from. To see a brief description of the content of each session you can go online at the conference website at [AUCD.org/conference](http://AUCD.org/conference). Or you can look on the conference app if you have it downloaded. So planning ahead will save you the time in trying to figure out which of the sessions you would like to attend during that day because again there will be several to choose from, and planning ahead both help you save some time.

### Slide 40

The AUCD Honors Celebration is a time for the AUCD network to honor deserving individuals who have made distinct contributions to disability research, education, policy, services, training, and the lives of people with disabilities or special health care needs and their families. During the 2015 AUCD Honors Celebration, we will have two special presentations: **Tom Wheeler**, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, will speak about his efforts to enforce the ADA and the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, his personal experience as a parent of a young adult with an intellectual disability, and future initiatives at the FCC to increase access for all. Additionally, AUCD is proud to have some of the models, photographers, planners, and the founder of the **Bold Beauty**



#### **Slide 41**

**Project** with us for the evening. The Bold Beauty Project is an innovative visual arts project that showcases 20 women living with various disabilities. Through the photographers' creative lens, the audience gets a glimpse into the lives of these incredible women and recognizes their beauty, strength, and sensuality - their boldness. Learn more at [www.BoldBeautyProject.com](http://www.BoldBeautyProject.com).

Individuals registered for and attending this event will receive a ticket for a drawing held the next morning; you must receive a ticket at this event and be present in the morning to win one of several highly desirable prizes.

#### **Slide 42**

At the conclusion of the Wednesday morning plenary or anytime during your visit to DC, we encourage you to visit the Hill to meet with your members of Congress. I'm going to hand this portion off to Liz to explain that further.

We hope that you will stay and schedule time to meet with your Members of Congress on Wednesday, Nov. 18 following the close of the conference. It's important! The purpose of your visits are to make sure that your Senators and Representatives hear directly from you about the work that you do and why it is important to people with disabilities in your state and nationwide. We also need to build new congressional champions on disability issues. You will need to call your Members to schedule the meetings before you arrive. If you haven't already done so, we suggest that you do this as soon as possible. Making appointments and meeting with your Members is easy!

#### **Slide 43**

To make your appointments and meet with your members follow these steps...

1. Call the Capitol switchboard 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senator or Representative or use our [Action Center](#) and enter your Zip Code to find your officials' phone numbers.
2. Ask to speak to the staff person that handles health, disability or appropriations (if they are on the Appropriations Committee)
3. Say that you would like to schedule an appointment for Nov. 18 early in the afternoon to provide an update on the research, education, training, and services your Center is providing.

#### **Slide 44**

4. Then make the next appointment. (Schedule Senate or House visits together and give yourself at least 30 minutes to walk to the other side of the Capitol. We suggest scheduling multiple meetings in 30 minute increments.) See also the [Tips for Making Hill visits](#) prepared for the Disability Policy Seminar.

5. Prioritize your visits depending on the Committee assignments of your Members of Congress or as well as the representative that is in the district of the Center (see full congressional directory on [AUCD's Action Center](#). Is your Member on the [House](#) or [Senate Appropriations](#) Committee? If so, please make that visit a priority!

#### **Slide 45**

6. Use the sample talking points we provide or prepare your own. Take copies of research briefs, helpful data, and real people stories and tie them to your policy objectives.
7. Contact [Kim Musheno](#) with specific policy questions or if you need assistance to make your appointments.
8. Finally, provide us feedback from your visits.

#### **Slide 46**

We have also provided various resources, some of which will be available at the registration desk, to help you with your hill visits. Please take advantage of them. Thank you for making an effort to meet with your Members of Congress or their staff. This will help policymakers make better policy decisions and help AUCD advocate for congressional support of network activities!

#### **Slide 47**

This edition of Tuesdays with Liz features policy-related activities and programs at AUCD's upcoming annual meeting (Nov 15-18), including several excellent plenary sessions and Hill visits by AUCD network members with their congressional delegations.

#### **Slide 48**

Throughout all the conference events we just discussed we encourage you to get social. We will offer free Wi-Fi to all conference attendees on the meeting room and ballroom levels of the hotel. Access will be renaissance\_conference and then aucd2015 is the password. The password and access will also be provided to you when you check in on site. Please utilize social media to share what's happening at the conference using #AUCD2015.

#### **Slide 49**

AUCD will be tweeting from @aucdnews.

#### **Slide 50**

Throughout the conference we will also be posting to Facebook. Association of University centers on disabilities, or AUCD trainees. So if you want to stay current and be in the know of what is being posted on social media through our network and our network members just find us, like us, follow us, and also share your comments and share your experience by using #AUCD2015.

### **Slide 51**

We know this conference will be transformative. So in addition to your posts on social media or if you don't use social media, we have a space in the app that will allow you to share your "aha" moments; anything that inspires you to drive change. You can also post those "aha moments" on cards that will be available throughout different spaces at the conference. After the conference, we plan on sharing those aha moments as continued inspiration for you and others as you continue to drive change throughout the year.

### **Slide 52**

Finally, we ask that you keep an eye out for evaluations at certain sessions. We need you to complete those to help us in the planning of future conferences. And after the conference, you will also be able to be able to complete the post event evaluation via the app. Again check the conference app for available presentation materials and handouts. We will also post photos of the conference on our website at [AUCD.org/conference](http://AUCD.org/conference). Stay tuned!

### **Slide 53**

Before we close we want to summarize and further provide you with some conference tips. Dress professionally, wear your name tag to meetings and social events, bring business cards if you have them. Use the hotel maps that will be provided to find your way around. The conference app will not only have a map of the hotel, but also of the local vicinity and different things in the area, so you can explore. We encourage you to meet people. For last-minute scheduling changes or conference updates check the conference app. If you need help, find someone with a staff ribbon or stop by the registration desk.

### **Slide 54**

Reminder to use the app to create your own schedule. Within the full list of the schedule on the app, you also have the opportunity to click on a button that allows it to add it to your schedule. When you go into the app you will see all the sessions that you have selected that you want to attend during your time at the AUCD 2015 conference. So now you do not have to scroll through all the sessions anymore because you now have a personalized schedule of all the things that you have selected that you want to attend. So schedule your days but definitely have alternate events in mind in case of last-minute changes, or in the case that the event you want to attend is full. Don't forget to make time for the conference exhibits.

### **Slide 55**

There will be several opportunities for you to provide thoughts and feedback throughout and after the conference. Whether it's posting on social media; Sharing your aha moments in the app or on provided postcards; or Completing session and conference evaluations. We just ask your assistance because your feedback is important in helping us to continue to provide such a transformative conference.

### **Slide 56**

As far as networking. If this is your first time or you get nervous about networking, you are not alone. Try to ask questions and learn from colleagues and related professionals. Introduce yourself and exchange business cards or your contact information if you do not have a business card. Make a note on every business card that you received to trigger your memory of the exchange. When you go back home you don't want to have 20 business cards and not recall who it was that you wanted to contact. Just make a quick note behind each business card as to what it is that you discussed, and what the follow-up would be about and so forth. Keep those connections going after the conference!

#### **Slide 57**

And if you want to get involved with AUCD, in addition to joining us via social media, go ahead and visit our website, check out the different listservs that you can participate in and stay in contact. Visit [www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org)

#### **Slide 58**

We are definitely excited about your attendance and we are all so thankful for everyone making this conference a great one including the sponsors listed here. We are so excited for all of our exhibitors and all of ours sponsors. So again please make time to visit the exhibitors. They will be out on Monday and Tuesday. And most of the times they have very nice little things you can take home with you.

#### **Slide 59**

That is about it for today. Again, the transcript and PowerPoint will be posted online in case you missed anything. Anna will let us know when the phone line is open. But this is the question and answer portion of the webinar. We are here to answer any questions that you may have in regards to your attendance, your participation, anything that you may have, our website, the app, the agenda. You can ask those questions by pressing the star and the pound key to request the floor. Anna Costalas will handle that and allow us to respond in the order that they are received. You can also submit any questions via the chat box below the slides on the right-hand side. She will read those questions aloud or she will answer them within the chat box so just let us know if you have any questions right now.

Questions...

We want to make sure that you feel prepared and comfortable to attend the conference. So that is why we wanted to offer this opportunity for you to kind of get a glimpse of the sessions, a glance of the program, get a quick look of how things will look, how the layout will be so that you can start to plan ahead. Again just allow you the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have because it will get a little busy. But if you at any time have any questions while you are on site, you can always find a staff person with a ribbon on their name badge or visit the registration desk.

#### **Slide 60**

I am so thankful that you all were able to join. I hope that this was helpful. If you think of any questions that come up after the webinar, please don't hesitate to contact us at the main office. Or just find us at registration desk. We look forward to seeing you very shortly. Safe travels everyone.