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| AUCD Diversity & Inclusion BlueprintMarch 2015 Progress Update  | Title: Colorful winding road - Description: Red, yellow and green winding road |

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is undertaking a unique effort to address the growing diversity of people with disabilities.  With diverse populations expected to grow in the coming years, addressing and eliminating disparities in education, service, training, information access, and leadership is a top priority for the disability community.  AUCD is meeting this challenge by developing a *diversity and inclusion blueprint* to include guidance, resources, and action plans for network Centers, AUCD, AIDD and MCHB, so each can better serve diverse populations.  Funding and guidance for this effort is provided by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) through their UCEDD and LEND technical assistance projects.

In this context, “diversity” is defined broadly, inclusive of ability/disability, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, culture, language, religion, spirituality, geographic location, values, experiences, economic status, age, education, political affiliation, health, mental health, and immigration status.

Diversity & Inclusion Fellows from across the network are leading the effort; [meet the Fellows here](https://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=10698&id=17).  The team is moving forward into the information-gathering stage of the project, and Fellows are reaching out to individual network members, Council and SIG leadership, and external stakeholders to gather information and recommendations for the blueprint.  A needs assessment is being developed and will be sent to all UCEDD and LEND programs.  Network engagement is key to the success of this effort, to ensure it addresses your needs!  Every faculty, staff, trainee, and advisory group member within AUCD’s network is encouraged to participate.



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