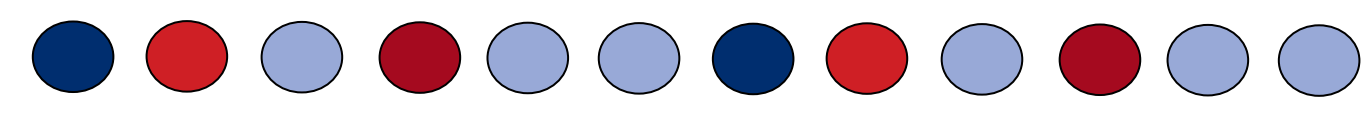


Arizona's Annual African American Symposium on Disabilities: Engaging Underserved Populations, Increasing Meaningful Statewide Partnerships, and Taking it National!

Jacy Farkas – Sonoran UCEDD, University of Arizona; Renaldo Fowler – Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL)
David Carey – Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL)

The Journey



The African American Symposium on Disabilities has been a one-day conference providing culturally relevant information and resources to self-advocates, families and professionals. Participants attended more than twenty workshops covering topics such as Cardiovascular Care, Mental Health, Sickle Cell Treatment, Assistive Technology, Positive Behavior Supports, Affordable Care Act, Education and Employment Law, Youth Transition.

2012: First conference co-founded by Renaldo Fowler and David Carey

2013: AZ Senator Leah Landrum Taylor, Senate Minority Leader, provided the keynote address

2014: Attendees traveled from throughout Arizona, California, Nevada and Washington, DC



AZ Senator Taylor

Over 700 individuals have attended the conference during the first three years!

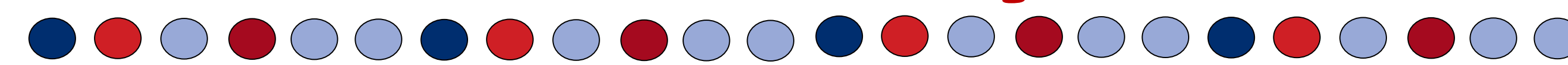


The Historically Black College and University Disability Consortium from Washington, DC presented two sessions at the 2014 Symposium on examining the challenges of African American students with disabilities in postsecondary education. Jacy Farkas, Symposium Planning Committee, met Denise Stanton-Williams, Director of the Consortium, at the AIDD/AUCD Minority Partnerships meeting at the 2013 AUCD Annual Conference in DC.



From Left: Dr. Sislena Ledbetter (UCD), Renaldo Fowler, David Carey, UDC student, Denise Stanton-Williams (UDC), Jacy Farkas, and Linda Strayer (Parent & PCP Facilitator)

A Community Effort!

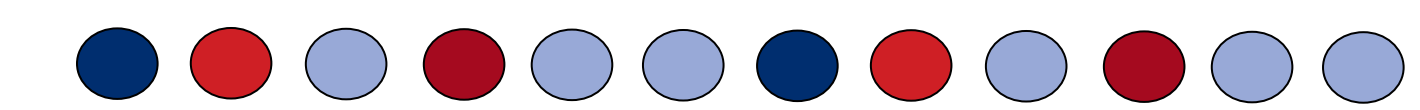


What started as an Arizona DD Network and Independent Living Center collaboration, has grown to include local organizations, individuals, and state agencies related to disability and from the greater community. Faith-based organizations, prominent black philanthropists and foundations, local chapters for coalitions and associations, and community-based media have become essential for networking, marketing, financial support, and information dissemination. These contributions and partnerships have allowed us to grow, keep registration fees low, and reach a wider audience each year.



Jean Fairfax

2015 Symposium

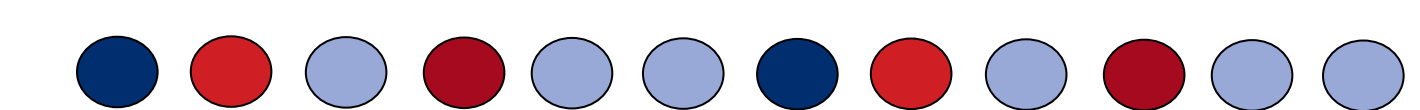


This year's conference takes it to the next level:

- National opening & keynote speakers:
 - Aaron Bishop, AIDD Commissioner
 - Tawara Goode, NCCC Director
- Free CART services
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available
- Soliciting proposals for the Symposium's first poster session
 - Proposals due December 12, 2014

Join us for the
4th Annual Symposium
February 27, 2015!

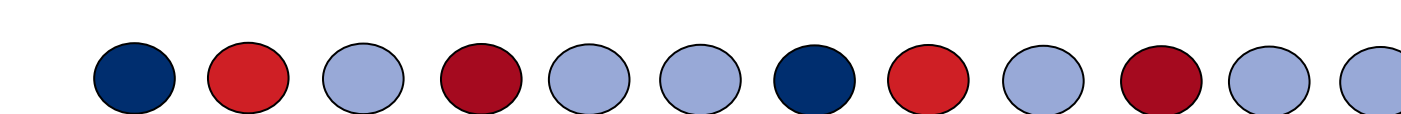
Future Plans



- Expand to multi-day conference
- Solicit proposals for concurrent and poster presentations
- Engage more families and self-advocates from across the country

This conference has been a true collaborative activity supported by the community, and we welcome new partnerships as we expand the symposium to multiple days and solicit presentation proposals nationally.

For more information



Please contact Jacy Farkas, UCEDD Manager | jkbell@email.arizona.edu
Renaldo Fowler, ACDL Senior Staff Advocate | rfowler@azdisabilitylaw.org
David Carey, ABIL Advocacy Specialist | davidc@abil.org

