

our history . . .

Established in 1969, HDI is a unit of the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research at the University of Kentucky and part of a nationwide network of University Centers for Excellence. The Centers were established by federal legislation to promote interdisciplinary approaches to services for individuals with disabilities and their families.

HDI and its sister agencies, the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Kentucky Division of Protection and Advocacy, form the state's Developmental Disability Network. This network is funded through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, and is administered through the U.S. Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Since its inception, the Institute has strived to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. This unwavering attention to detail and overall commitment are reflected in our mission and vision. It is through these guiding principles, our goals become clear and continue to keep us focused.



our mission . . .

To promote the independence, productivity and inclusion of people with disabilities and their families throughout the life span. We accomplish this through:

- interdisciplinary education;
- research and development;
- information sharing and advocacy; and
- outreach. . .

across the state and nation.

our principles . . .

The following principles guide all of our interactions:

- We convey esteem and respect for all individuals;
- We promote individual growth, learning, choices and self-advocacy;
- We advocate for supports and full access in education, work, recreation and relationships throughout a person's community;
- We foster creativity, flexibility and collaboration;
- We cultivate both individual and organizational learning; and
- We champion open and responsive communication.

With more than 30 projects and 150 employees, HDI is dedicated to providing research, training and direct services to individuals with disabilities.

Projects within the Institute address a wide range of topics and issues in the areas of Early Care and Education, School Age, Adult Services and Lifespan.

Project topics include:

- technology development and training;
- early identification of children at risk of disabilities;
- promotion and development of school programs that meet the needs of all children in primary through secondary levels; and
- employment.

In addition, HDI offers several outreach activities such as courses, seminars and internship opportunities in best practice approaches to the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Research continues to be a vital part of HDI activities. Staff and faculty conduct joint research initiatives with university faculty from a variety of academic units and personnel from regional, state and local agencies. HDI also employs graduate-level research assistants from a variety of disciplines.

The Human Development Institute (HDI), a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service, focuses its efforts on improving lifelong opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities, their families and the community.

HDI is a member institution of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), a network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice for and with individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities.

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