



AUCD Central Office News

AUCD Welcomes New Staff



[Liz Weintraub](#) comes on board as a Self Advocacy Project Specialist. Liz has a long history of leadership in self advocacy, and has held many board and advisory positions at state and national organizations. In addition to her part-time position with AUCD, Liz also works for the Council on Quality & Leadership (CQL) and is faculty for The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware. Her work with these organizations and others focuses on improving quality of life for people with disabilities. [Read more...](#)



[Sharon Romelczyk](#) is a CDC Senior Project Specialist, providing technical assistance to the sixteen CDC Disability and Health Grantees under the AUCD-CDC Cooperative Agreement with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). Additionally, she supports overall efforts of the Cooperative Agreement including the Research Topics of Interest (RTOI) competitions, CDC Fellowship and Collaborative Research Awards. [Read more...](#)



[Amie Lulinski-Norris, MS](#) is the 2011 AUCD Disability Policy Leadership Fellow. Amie comes from the Institute on Disability and Human Development where she served as Project Coordinator for the UCEDD and Academic Coordinator for the LEND. Amie earned her MS in Disability and Human Development in 2008 from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is currently a PhD Candidate in Disability Studies. Amie's research interests include deinstitutionalization and community-based supports and services, as well as long-term care and Medicaid policy. [Read more...](#)

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Member Spotlight

[Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Employment Policy and Measurement at the Institute on Disability, UNH](#)



INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY / UCED
A University Center for Excellence in Disability

A five-year, \$4.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) will allow the IOD to study and measure the impact of national policies and programs on the employment of people with disabilities. This grant will establish a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center

AUCD Announces 2011 Research Topics of Interest: Letters of Intent (LOIs) due February 25, 2011

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is pleased to announce the 2011 Research Topics of Interest (RTOIs), funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). [Read more...](#)

Network News - Awards

Center on Disability and Development Trainee Receives Emerging Researcher Award



Elizabeth McAdams Ducey

Elizabeth McAdams Ducey, a doctoral trainee with the Center on Disability and Development at the Texas A&M University (TX UCEDD), has been awarded the Alice H. Hayden Emerging Researcher Award by TASH, an international association for people with disabilities. This award is presented to a doctoral student in education or a related field who demonstrates potential for leadership in teaching, scholarship and service on behalf of people with significant disabilities. [Read more...](#)

Network News - Activities & Resources

ADD Commissioner Sharon Lewis Visits the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center



Sharon Lewis

Sharon Lewis, Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, visited the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (TN UCEDD/LEND) on January 20th to meet with faculty, staff, trainees, and community members. She also delivered the 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Lecture. Lewis' talk, "Shifting Landscapes: Current Challenges and Opportunities in Developmental Disabilities Policy," may be viewed [here](#).

Think College, at the Institute for Community Inclusion (MA UCEDD/LEND) Announces Eight Minigrant Awards



Six statewide strategic planning grants and two implementation grants will support the development and implementation of postsecondary education initiatives for students with intellectual disability. The Think College grants are funded through a grant award from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities in partnership with the Association of University Centers for Excellence (AUCD). [Read more...](#)

Clinical Trial of Autism Early Intervention Reveals Significant Improvements in Toddlers' Social and Communication Skills

(RRTC) on employment policy and measurement at UNH to meet these needs and facilitate the translation of research findings into policy making and program administration. [Read more...](#)

Grab the Spotlight!

AUCD's Member Spotlight is a monthly feature that profiles an AUCD Network member and highlights its recent activities and accomplishments.

If you would like your UCEDD, LEND, or IDDRC to be featured in an upcoming Member Spotlight, [submit an idea for an article here](#).

Events

2011 Disability Policy Seminar

February 14-16, 2011
Washington, DC



This two and a half day event is chock full of information you can use to be a better advocate for yourself or the people and programs you represent. With over 100 new Members of the new 112th Congress, it is especially important for AUCD network members to attend and educate these new lawmakers. [Read more and register](#).

Employment Opportunities

Please check the [Employment](#) page on our website for opportunities within the entire AUCD network.

Researchers from the Kennedy Krieger Institute (MD UCEDD/LEND) found that early intervention can improve the core symptoms of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in very young children. The most significant improvements were found in how the children connected and socialized with others, a defining stumbling block for children with autism. [Read more...](#)

Leading Autism Researchers at Nisonger Center (OH UCEDD/LEND) and Nationwide Children's Hospital Are Connected by New Ingram Fund

As the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports staggering increases in cases of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), top researchers in Columbus, Ohio, have an unprecedented opportunity to unlock and address this growing public health crisis thanks to the generosity of Bill Ingram, CEO of White Castle System, Inc., and director of The Ohio State University Foundation, and his wife, Marci Ingram. The Ingrams have committed to donating \$10 million to The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital to support collaborative ASD research. [Read more...](#)

Children's Hearing Research Program: Providing Sound Services for Hearing Loss

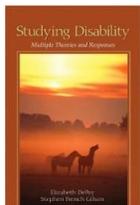


Administering An Audiology Exam

For more than 30 years, the Children's Hearing Research Program (CHRP), of the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC) at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (NY UCEDD/LEND), has provided life-changing services to infants, children and adults with deafness and hearing loss. Through its various services, the program has significantly improved the lives of thousands of

individuals living in the Bronx and its surrounding communities. [Read more...](#)

Studying Disability: Multiple Theories and Responses. New Book from Elizabeth DePoy and Stephen French Gilson



Elizabeth DePoy and Stephen French Gilson, professors of social work and interdisciplinary disability studies at the School of Social Work and the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (ME UCEDD), have published a fully integrative text analyzing disability from a variety of disciplines. *Studying Disability: Multiple Theories and Responses* (Sage Publications, 2011) first critically examines existing theories and then sets forth a new viewpoint that incorporates progressive and contemporary thinking and action from humanities, social sciences, and professional fields. [Read more...](#)

P.S. 176X Students Give Support to Autism Research and Care



Students, teachers and staff from P.S. 176X present their donation of \$1,400

Einstein's (NY UCEDD/LEND) Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center, or CERC, was the first organization that came to mind for Nadine McNeil - whose son, Tyler, is diagnosed with autism and attends P.S. 176X, the largest school for children with autism in New York City.

Tyler and his classmates had raised \$1,400 through activities they had coordinated and were trying to figure out

where to donate the money. [Read more...](#)

Institute on Disability (IOD - NH UCEDD) Focuses on Employment and Long-Term Care

The [National Inclusive Education Initiative \(NIEI\)](#), a project of the IOD (NH UCEDD), is now offering free online inclusive education professional development via two webinar series: [Fundamentals of Inclusive Education Series](#) and [Administrators' Leadership Series](#). In addition to this initiative, the [Employment Consultant Training](#) project is developing online training modules to teach employment specialists, job coaches, and other direct-service employment staff how to maximize the social inclusion of employees with disabilities and use support strategies that are naturally incorporated into the work environment.

UNH is working with the NH Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services and the ServiceLink Resource Center (SLRC) Network to implement [two long-term care projects](#):

- ò the development of national standards for long term care options counselors *and*
- ò the coordination of evidence-based care transition models that help older persons or persons with disabilities transition successfully back to the appropriate setting of their choice after a hospital admission.

The Center for Disabilities and Development Partners with the Iowa Department of Human Services on the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program

The Center for Disabilities and Development, Iowa's UCEDD, partners with the Iowa Department of Human Services on many systems improvement initiatives, including the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. The UCEDD's website has a new video that highlights a few of the individuals who have had success under Iowa's MFP program. The video features an introduction by Iowa's Senator Tom Harkin who was instrumental in sponsoring legislation that created and funds the national MFP program. [Watch video...](#)

Study of Cholesterol Levels Under Way for Children with Autism

Investigators at Kennedy Krieger Institute (MD UCEDD/LEND) affiliated with Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, The Ohio State University's Nisonger Center (OH UCEDD/LEND), and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development are collaborating on a two-part study of

cholesterol levels in children with autism, Asperger's, or similar developmental disorders (autism spectrum disorders). [Read more...](#)

Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University (MI UCEDD) Announces Two New Projects for 2011



The Michigan Family Support Initiative

The goal of the Michigan Family Support Initiative is to reunite, preserve, strengthen, and maintain family units, while making sure that the individuals with developmental disabilities receive ample opportunities to exercise true choice and self-determination in their home communities.

Improving Emotion Recognition Skills in Children with ASD: A Test of a New Intervention

The Transporters is an animated children's series developed in the UK that features vehicles onto which real-life faces of actors have been grafted. The series, which is available on DVD, consists of 15 five-minute episodes each featuring a different emotion or mental state. DDI Researcher, Dr. Karen Hobden will examine the effectiveness of *The Transporters* DVD as an intervention tool for teaching children with ASD how to better recognize various emotions. [Read more...](#)

Submissions



News items may be submitted for consideration to: [Corina Miclea](#)

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AUCD | 1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 920 | Silver Spring | MD | 20910