



AUCD Central Office News

Introducing the 2012 ADD-UCEDD Fellow: Mette Pedersen, PhD



Mette Pedersen, PhD opportunities for inclusive childcare in New Mexico across state agencies and worked there to establish a system of home visiting, including Federal home visiting programs supported by the Affordable Care Act. [Read more...](#)

Dr. Pedersen has worked with children and adults with disabilities, their families, and communities throughout the United States in university, therapeutic, early intervention, and public school settings. She has worked to create systems of care and education through collaboration of community, family, and state efforts. She helped develop

AUCD Partnership with Exceptional Parent



Throughout the year, AUCD Network members are guest authoring future articles in Exceptional Parent that highlight and celebrate the great strengths and capacity of our Network and share strategies in research, education, and service that advance the journey towards equity and excellence. If you wish to write or submit an article, past issues should give you an idea of the kinds of topics and lay writing style that is most helpful for the E-Parent magazine audience. If you want to feature your accomplishments and resources for parents and families, contribute an article by the 10th of the month for publication the following month. To contribute an article, contact Adriane Griffen at agriffen@aucd.org.

Network News - Awards

Wanda Felty (OK UCEDD/LEND) Honored with State Parent Advocate Award

January 2012 | Volume 12 Issue 1



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Member Spotlight

The Boggs Center (NJ UCEDD) Honored with the Arc Angel Award by The Arc of Somerset Network



THE ELIZABETH M. BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES | UMDNJ | ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON MEDICAL SCHOOL

Dr. Deborah Spitalnik accepting the award

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities was honored with the 2011 Arc Angel Award by The Arc of Somerset. The special award was presented to The Boggs Center for its partnership and inspiration in enhancing the lives



Wanda Felty

Wanda Felty, Community Leadership and Advocacy Coordinator at the Center for Learning and Leadership (OK UCEDD), was recently honored as the Parent Advocate of the Year at the 21st Annual TARC Advocacy Awards and Volunteer Recognition ceremony in Tulsa, OK. TARC is a nonprofit organization that advocates for Oklahomans with developmental disabilities and their families throughout their lifetimes. [Read more...](#)

Dr. Angela Tomlin - MHA 2011 Hero in the Fight Award Recipient



Angela Tomlin, PhD

Hoosier families raising young children with concerns about their children's social emotional and behavioral needs may not have a personal experience with Angela M. Tomlin, Ph.D., HSPP, but the services and providers available to support them are possible as a result of her work. In 2000 Dr. Tomlin, together with several statewide partners, formed the Indiana Association for Infant and Toddler Mental Health (IAITMH), a subsidiary of MHA and dedicated to a vision that any child and their family in every Indiana county has access to mental and behavioral health services in their home community. [Read more...](#)

Network News - People on the Move

Institute on Disabilities (PA UCEDD) Names Co-Executive Directors



Amy Goldman and Celia Feinstein

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, College of Education, has announced that Associate Directors Celia S. Feinstein and Amy S. Goldman have been named Co-Executive Directors of the Institute, effective January 2, 2012. James Earl Davis, Interim Dean of the College of Education at Temple University, made the announcement in late December after a yearlong search.

[Read more...](#)

University of Cincinnati UCEDD Announces new Associate Director

of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. [Read more...](#)

Events

28th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity

"Living to Our Complete Potential"

The 28th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity (Pac Rim) will bring together a diverse international gathering of academics, community leaders, self-advocates, specialists and officials to Honolulu, Hawaii on March 26-27, 2012. The conference aims to inspire, educate and illuminate - with over 18 topic areas, 200 presentations and several institutes, the program is fertile ground for dialogue and exchange while 'pushing the envelope' to ensure all human beings can live to their complete potential.

[Read more and register.](#)

2012 International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities (IASSID) World Congress

July 9 - 14, 2012
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Ilka Riddle, PhD

Ilka Riddle, PhD, will be joining the University of Cincinnati UCEDD as Associate UCEDD Director on April 1, 2012. Dr. Riddle is currently the Unit Director for health initiatives at the Center for Disabilities Studies at the University of Delaware, the Delaware UCEDD. She is Project Director for the Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities: Bridging the Gap Project. She chairs the special interest group on health of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. [Read](#)

[more...](#)

David Atto Appointed Dean of Administration at the Northern Marianas College



David Atto

David Atto, site director of the Pacific Basin University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, has been promoted to Dean of Administration at the Northern Marianas College. According to NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Atto has demonstrated remarkable leadership for the college. Atto also serves on numerous community boards, councils, organizations, and sports teams. [Read more...](#)

Network News - Activities & Resources

HRSA Administrator Mary Wakefield Visits GA LEND



Dr. Wakefield with faculty and staff of the GA LEND
On December 16th, Georgia State University's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (GaLEND) Program hosted Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Wakefield's visit provided her first opportunity to meet with trainees, faculty, and staff from a LEND program since she was appointed to her post by President Barack Obama in February 2009. [Read more...](#)



The 2012 IASSID World Congress, "A World of Potential," will bring approximately 1,500 delegates from around the world to Halifax. The conference will offer several plenary addresses about major advances in the biological, behavioral, and social sciences related to intellectual disabilities. In addition, presenters will share recent research findings in more than 200 concurrent sessions.

DEC's 28th Annual International Conference On Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families

October 28-30, 2012
Minneapolis, MN

Working in early intervention or early childhood special education? There is only one conference that can offer you this extraordinary learning experience. Join colleagues from around the world to explore the evidence, present practical strategies, and engage in discussions that will change the way you think. Join the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and over 300 outstanding presenters who will inspire your work with transformative approaches. DEC is located at the Rural Institute on Disabilities in Montana. [Read more...](#)

Next Steps at Vanderbilt Celebrates First Graduation Class in TN



"What's next?" is probably the toughest question facing most young adults, but that decision can be especially challenging for those with intellectual disabilities. The Next Steps at Vanderbilt program, which graduated its first class this month, has broadened those choices. The six graduates from the inaugural two-

year certification program audited Vanderbilt University courses, focused on independent living skills and participated in internships that will make them more employable. [Read more...](#)

CERC-ling the Wagons: How Bronx Moms Helped Shape Needed Services



Dr. Herbert J. Cohen, Director Emeritus of CERC

For any parent, finding out your child has disabilities changes your world forever. For a pioneering group of five women in the Bronx, Mary Bonsignore, Mary St. Mark, Dorothy Stone, Nellie Velez and Anna Mae Vener, the children who changed their worlds led them to the herculean undertaking of altering the world around them, so they could make a place for their children and others like them to live, learn, love and laugh - instead of being locked away in an institution. [Read more...](#)

Maine UCEDD Updates and Expands Free Resources on Quality Inclusive Care and Education



Linda Labas

The University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS) has updated and expanded a popular online series of early childhood resources: Growing Ideas Tipsheets and Resources for Guiding Early Childhood Practices. Under the leadership of Linda Labas, the Maine UCEDD's Early Childhood Coordinator, CCIDS collaborated with Maine's Protection and Advocacy agency, the Disability Rights Center of Maine, on the development of three new tipsheets. [Read](#)

[more...](#)

Christine Barthold, PhD, at the Center for Disabilities Studies (DE UCEDD) Is the Co-Editor of a New Book about Autism

Employment Opportunities

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

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Christine Barthold, PhD

Christine H. Barthold, Ph.D., BCBA-D, a researcher at the Center for Disabilities Studies at the University of Delaware, is a co-editor of *School Success for Kids with Autism* with Andrew L Egel Ph.D. and Katherine C. Holman Ph.D. The book was published in December 2011 by Prufrock Press; it is available in paperback and as a PDF file. [Read more...](#)

Rylin Rodgers, Training Director at the Riley Child Development Center (IN LEND) Is Invited to the White House



Rylin Rodgers

It seems that politics has been anything but usual lately and one wonders if there are meaningful ways to affect national policy regarding issues so important to our patients and their families. Riley Child Development Center Family Leadership Coordinator and Training Director Rylin Rodgers, however, encourages each of us to engage our elected leaders to inform them about the value of policies and programs that support healthy Hoosiers. [Read more...](#)

Special Education Program at TX CDD Is Recruiting Doctoral Students with Interests in Autism, Behavioral Interventions, and Single-Case Research

The Center on Disability and Development and the Special Education Program at Texas A&M University recently received a Leadership Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Education and is recruiting potential doctoral students with interests in lifespan services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, behavioral interventions, and single-case research. [Read more and apply.](#)

The Center on Disability Studies (HI UCEDD) Receives Funding for Project SPIRIT and a Signature Employment Grant



The U.S. Department of Education's Native Hawaiian Education Act Program recently awarded CDS three years of funding for Project SPIRIT, **S**upporting **P**arents in **R**esponsive **I**nteractions and **T**eaching. Although less than four months old, the project is off to an impressive start by recruiting a qualified Project Coordinator and partnering with the long-standing Native Hawaiian organization Alu Like, Inc to train four local para-professionals to implement the program's Responsive Teaching Curriculum (RTC).

Also, Dr. Steven Brown, Dr. Megan Conway and Mr. Thomas Conway of the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii have been awarded a Signature Employment Grant by the Kessler Foundation to develop "EmployAble", a model virtual reality employment orientation and support center using Second Life as a platform to provide training, networking, mentoring and employment

resources for people with disabilities and employers. [Read more about both projects...](#)

The Boggs Center (NJ UCEDD) Holds Arab American Communities and Disabilities Conference



"We are making history here!" said Amani Shahin, one of the Arab American panelists at Arab American Communities and Disabilities Conference held at the Somerset Doubletree Hotel on December 10, 2011. Ms. Shahin, who has a sibling with a developmental disability, was one of a dynamic panel of parents, siblings and individuals with disabilities. The panel, moderated by Raja Salloum, a therapist at the

Mental Health Center of Passaic County, followed an excellent keynote by Helen Samhan, the former Executive Director of the Arab American Institute based in Washington, DC, who gave the whole audience a rich overview of the history and culture of Arab Americans in the United States. [Read more...](#)

Submissions

News items may be submitted for consideration to:

[Corina Miclea Rotsko](#)