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Photo courtesy of Hawaii LEND, University of Hawaii at Manoa

## Mission

AUCD's mission is to advance policies and practices that improve the health, education, social, and economic well-being of people with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and their communities by supporting our members in research, education, health, and service activities that achieve our vision.

Watch how AUCD is  
Growing Leaders & Driving Change

youtu.be/EG5u8ybB92o



# AUCD

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, SERVICE

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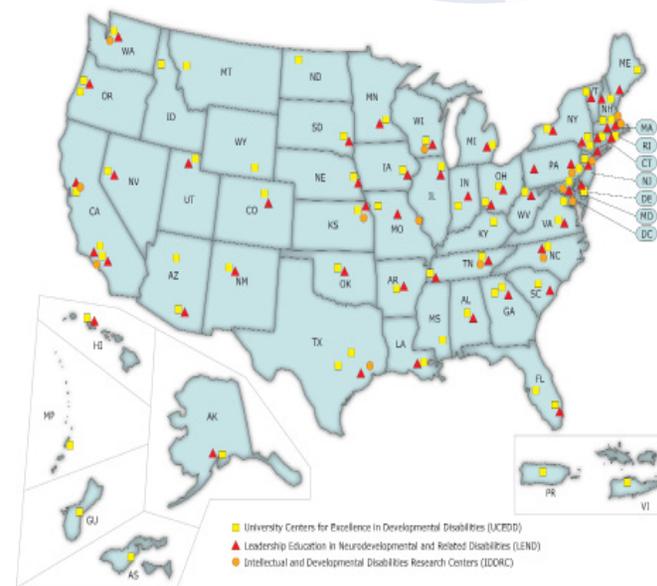
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Andrew J. Imparato  
Executive Director



# AUCD

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, SERVICE



A network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice for and with individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities.

# Association of University Centers on Disabilities

## Research, Education, Service

### The AUCD Network

AUCD supports and promotes a national network of university-based, interdisciplinary programs. Network members consist of:

- 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD)
- 52 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities programs (LENDs) funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
- 15 Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs) funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

AUCD members represent every state and territory in the United States. They engage in a range of interdisciplinary activities, including:

- Exemplary services for children, adults, and families
- Academic training
- Basic and applied research
- Training and technical assistance to schools, communities, and all levels of government
- Public policy advocacy
- Program evaluation
- Dissemination of best practices and new information

AUCD programs also train and educate the next generation of leaders in disability-related research, training, service delivery, and public policy advocacy.

AUCD members have unique strengths that they share with each other and the greater disability community. Some members are exemplary educators. They train professional leaders, individuals with disabilities, and family members in areas such as early care and education, primary health care, special education, and innovative housing and employment programs. Other members excel in basic and applied research, model demonstration programs, systemic reform, and policy analysis. Because these programs work collaboratively, innovations from one program can be rapidly implemented in communities throughout the country—thus affecting more lives than any one program could touch.

### The Role of AUCD

AUCD supports its member networks through:

- Leadership on major social issues affecting all people living with developmental or other disabilities or special health needs
- Public policy advocacy
- Partnering with other national organizations to advance the network's national agendas
- Promoting communication within the network and with other groups by collecting, organizing and disseminating data on network activities and accomplishments
- Providing technical assistance on a broad range of topics

Membership in AUCD is open to UCEDDs, LENDs, IDDRCs, and related national and international university-based centers and entities with similar missions and values.

An elected Board of Directors, which includes professionals, individuals with disabilities, trainees, and family members, governs AUCD.

### AUCD Members

**UCEDDs** work with people with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and the community to provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing, with a focus on building the capacity of communities to sustain all their citizens.

**LENDs** provide long-term, graduate-level, interdisciplinary training to health professionals. They develop leadership potential to improve the health status of infants, children, and adolescents with or at risk for neurodevelopmental and related disabilities to enhance the systems of care for these children and their families.

**IDDRCs** embody the nation's first sustained effort to prevent and treat disabilities through biomedical and behavioral research. IDDRCs represent the world's largest concentration of scientific expertise in the fields of intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Photo courtesy of Elaine Eisenbaum