|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AUCD Diversity & Inclusion  Blueprint  May 2015 Progress Update | Title: Colorful winding road - Description: Red, yellow and green winding road |

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) continues an innovative effort to address the growing diversity of people with disabilities by developing a *diversity and inclusion blueprint* to include guidance, resources, and action plans for network Centers, AUCD, AIDD and MCHB, so each can better serve diverse populations.

The Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship team is well into the information-gathering stage of the project, having researched many publications related to diversity and inclusion, as well as reviewing numerous other Blueprints. The team has also conducted over 30 in-person, phone, and Skype information-gathering interviews with AUCD Council and SIG members, and internal and external stakeholders. Interviews are scheduled to conclude in early to mid-May. A survey has also been piloted and recently sent to all UCEDD and LEND Directors. As the team is moving toward completing the focused information-gathering stage by the end of May, we will continue to review all recommendations received to that point and move toward developing the Blueprint itself via prioritizing recommendations, reviewing suggested priorities, action plans, goals, timelines, and outcome measures within the team and with volunteer advisors.

We currently have about 25-30 pages of recommendations in 10 categories:

1. Network Connections and Resources

2. Outside Network/Partnerships

3. Education

4. Pipelines

5. Mentorship

6. Communication/Dissemination

7. Service Delivery

8. Language Resources and Support

9. Data

Within each of these categories are numerous recommendations, including ideas on how UCEDDs, LENDs, AUCD, AIDD & MCHB can be supportive of Diversity and Inclusion through funding, technical assistance, and relationship brokering; utilizing network connections and resources, for example for developing mentoring partnerships; suggestions for engaging external partners; focusing on diversity and inclusion pipeline development; collaboration, communication and dissemination across a wide range of populations; and suggestions for how service delivery, data collection, and accountability, and accessibility might all be enhanced in this process.

The team also recently hosted a Community Conversation about Diversity and Inclusion on Monday, May 11, 2015. This provided an opportunity to share ideas, barriers, questions, and strategies on incorporating diversity and inclusion strategies into the fabric of UCEDD and LEND work. The Community Conversation was archived and can be viewed here:  <http://aucd.adobeconnect.com/p5wdtbykvdr/>.

Members of the team will also present about the Diversity and Inclusion Blueprint process at the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity in May and the AAIDD Conference in June.

Network engagement is key to the success of this effort, to ensure it addresses your needs!  Every faculty, staff, trainee, and advisory group member within AUCD’s network is encouraged to participate.  For more information, please contact Dawn Rudolph at [drudolph@aucd.org](mailto:drudolph@aucd.org).