



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities

Education | Research | Service

Expanding Possibilities | Enhancing Independence

WHO WE ARE: A federally funded interdisciplinary center at the University of Arizona serving as a bridge between the university and community to further community inclusion and improve the health of people with disabilities. Our faculty and staff are physicians, social workers, psychologists, lawyers, public health practitioners, care coordinators, transition, aging and employment specialists, working together on a variety of projects and initiatives. We work throughout the State of Arizona and have projects that reach into Sonora, Mexico.

WHAT WE DO: educate and train students and community members on disability related subjects and fields; create pilot projects and model programs to foster best practices in the disability services and supports; research in disability areas to develop new knowledge of what interventions work; and broadly disseminate information on disability throughout the State of Arizona.

WHAT THE GRANT IS ABOUT: Our core funding is from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) at U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. AIDD's recent grant competition provided supplements to some UCEDDs to further diversity by partnering with a minority institution in planning a partnership for student/faculty information and training exchange. Our grant enables us to work with Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC) over the next year and beyond to:

- 1) Develop a plan for a well-defined partnership between the Sonoran UCEDD(SUCEDD) and TOCC.
- 2) Facilitate student exchanges by bringing SUCEDD trainees to TOCC to learn about the role of culture, custom and tradition and by creating mechanisms for TOCC students to participate in disability internship/trainee experiences with SUCEDD;
- 3) Conduct disability topic workshops with TOCC faculty, students and community on the Nation; and
- 4) Develop a curriculum and sustainable on-line disabilities studies course suitable for use by TOCC and other tribal colleges.

Outcomes of the partnership are to: increase TOCC faculty' and students' knowledge on disability funding, resources and skills; increase SUCEDD faculty' and students' knowledge about O'odham culture and skills in providing cultural-competent training and services, and creating ongoing opportunities for student and faculty exchange and learning, including as SUCEDD trainees.

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