

# The Road Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities

# Relevance in the Field

- Improving lives
- Enhancing quality of existing service delivery systems
- Impacting broader social service systems – health, housing, etc.
- Expanding diversity – consumers, trainees, staff, faculty
- Developing needed supports and services for full community integration
- Understanding and supporting the self-advocacy movement
- Opportunities in cross disability & DD & single disorder
- Documenting impact

- Multiple constituencies and collaborators
  - Expanding quality and breadth of collaborations
- Competing priorities between individual projects and the Center as a whole
  - Project versus Center recognition in community
- Maintaining productive relationships with DD Network partners, other community partners
- Maintaining relationships with State agencies
  - Across multiple levels of personnel
  - Across changes in administration and political pressures

- Functioning within University environment
  - Participating in University committees, governance
  - Fitting in with University mission & goals
- Competing priorities between faculty roles and Center obligations
- Strategic partnering across colleges, departments, to enhance interdisciplinary curriculum
- Engaging with key University offices
  - Governmental Affairs (educating policymakers)
  - Admissions & Student Affairs (recruiting trainees)
  - Marketing (information dissemination)
  - Sponsored Research (grant submissions)
  - Disability Services

- Translating research and findings into policy
- Developing relationships with policymakers & decision makers at local, state and federal levels
- Advising at local, state, and federal levels
- Producing consumable information
- Make yourself useful, responsive, and available!

- Director's role as a content expert vs. administrator
- Director's role in leadership development of staff
  - Time, depth of knowledge and experience
- Balancing growth & quality of UCEDD
  - Following opportunities & possibilities
  - Maintaining quality and work/life balance

- Budget cuts and continual need to search for funding to maintain & grow programs
  - particular challenge with shrinking budgets
  - funding diversification – how far to go?
- Changing and varying expectations of funding agencies
  - new & emerging priorities
  - use of federal funds
  - interpretation of regulations
- Negotiation with your university to keep as much of your indirect funds and other earned funds as possible
  - Maximizing unrestricted funds for UCEDD