

Memo



TO: UCEDD Directors

FR: MCC Co-Chairs, Maria Avila, Ph.D & Christine Vining, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Date: 2/10/2016

RE: 2016 UCEDD TA Institute

The Multicultural Council (MCC) is an integral part of AUCD and its mission is to advocate on behalf of the cultural diversity and cultural competence mandates of the Developmental Disabilities Act and other relevant legislation and policies. The Council fulfills this mission to the Association and its constituent membership by serving as a conduit for technical assistance, providing input into policy, and engaging in other support activities deemed necessary to advance the area of cultural competence as mandated by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB).

We are delighted that the focus of the TA Institute is on providing an opportunity for UCEDD leaders to engage in facilitated dialogue and identify strategies for attaining goals related to diversity, inclusion, and cultural and linguistic competence. As MCC Co-Chairs, we wholeheartedly support the focus on the dialogue and collaboration to advance goals related to diversity, inclusion, cultural and linguistic competence, and eliminating health disparities. Addressing themes such as infrastructure, diversity and inclusion action plans, core functions, diverse and inclusive workforce and leadership, evaluation and quality improvement, and funding as they relate to cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural competence are crucial for moving the AUCD network forward.

Collaboration, strategic planning, and action are essential in addressing critical issues including: issues of chronic inequities experienced by individuals with developmental disabilities from underserved racial, ethnic, and linguistically diverse groups, strengthening the service delivery infrastructure, advancing research and policy, and advancing the health, self-determination, and productivity of all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

As UCEDD leaders, your role is important for advancing research, education, and service for and with people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities. Your leadership is essential for advancing diversity, inclusion, and cultural and linguistic competency in your Centers and influencing the systems your Centers interface with.

We look forward to our ongoing collaboration with the AUCD staff, board and network.

Sincerely,
Maria Mercedes Avila
Christine B. Vining