

# Enhancing Your Leadership Opportunities with the Council on Leadership and Advocacy



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, SERVICE

*A Presentation from AUCD's  
Council on Leadership and Advocacy (COLA)*

# Who Are We?



**Jack Brandt**  
COLA Co-Chair  
VA-UCEDD, LEND



**Mitchell Levitz**  
COLA Eastern  
Regional  
Representative  
NY, Westchester-  
UCEDD, LEND



**Angela Martin**  
COLA Co-Chair  
MI-UCEDD, LEND



**Mark Smith**  
COLA Past Chair  
NE-UCEDD, LEND

# Council on Leadership & Advocacy

## **PURPOSE**

To advise and assist the AUCD network to enhance the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

# Council on Leadership & Advocacy

## **PRIMARY CHARGE**

The Council serves to systematically identify, train, mentor and otherwise promote leaders with the lived experience of disability, including their family members, and to serve as a link between the AUCD network and the broader disability community.

The membership of the Council is just for individuals that are on the UCEDD's Consumer Advisory Councils.



**Trainees cannot  
participate on  
the Council.**



**COLA is a council  
of the AUCD that  
focuses on  
leadership.**



COLA has four  
full council  
meetings a year.





Only one person  
from each  
network member  
organization can  
participate in  
COLA



# What Do These Tell Us?

- Information was fragmented
- Self-Advocates → System Advocates
- Systems must adapt
- Council on Community Advocacy's (COCA) role



# Why Did We Change?

- Discussions with AUCD and AIDD leadership
- Original charge: serving as the “CAC for CAC’s”
- COCA took on different initiatives
- New leadership at AUCD



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from Noun Project

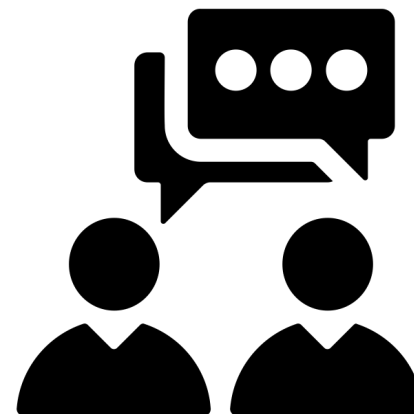


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from Noun Project

# Discussion with New Leadership

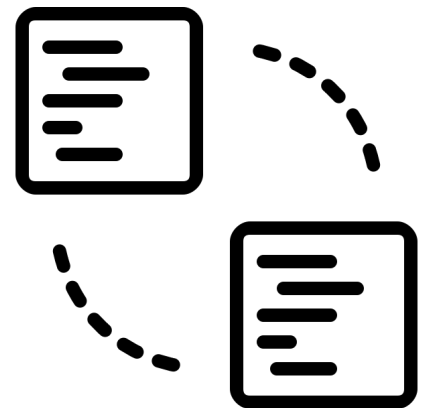
Initial discussions with the new AUCD and AIDD leadership led to 2 developments:

1. A call to “up our game” in leadership and leadership development to directly involve people with disabilities and family members
2. COCA would gather data on advocates with disabilities



# Why Did We Change?

- Gathered data from across the network
- The data was incorporated into a policy document:  
“Nothing About Us Without Us: Increasing Leadership Opportunities Through Advocacy for People With Disabilities”
- Dissemination of information



# Why We Are Here Today

- Council's new role: leadership in addition to advocacy (through the lens of lived experience).
- Proposal to the AUCD Board regarding the charge to COCA.
- Council's new name: **COLA: the Council on Leadership and Advocacy**

# Strategic Map & Primary Activities



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- Develop & disseminate materials related to leadership and the lived experience of disability
- Collaboration within the network on activities of mutual interest.
- Pursue activities and opportunities that increase the number of leaders with the lived experience of disability throughout the network



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
THE LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH NETWORK

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is a diverse network of people with disabilities, families, educators, researchers, advocates, and professionals.

AUCD is a strong presence in every U.S. state and territory, and grows leaders who have the skills to make a difference throughout the world.

In partnership with people with disabilities, AUCD promotes inclusion, dignity, respect, equity, justice, health, and well-being across the lifespan in all communities.



[www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org)   



# Strategic Map & Primary Activities



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**AUCD Green:  
Grow Diverse and  
Skilled Leaders.**

## **COLA Goal Green**

Utilize network resources to support COLA membership.

### **Expected Outcome:**

Increase in number of COLA members who attend AUCD Annual Conference Meeting or Disability Policy Seminar or participated in the AUCD Leadership Academy. (One time each year)

# Strategic Map & Primary Activities

AUCD Purple:  
Model Diversity,  
Equity & Inclusion.

## COLA Goal Purple

COLA membership champions  
and models diversity, equity,  
and inclusion.

**Expected Outcome:**  
Increased COLA  
membership reflecting  
AUCD network diversity.



# Strategic Map & Primary Activities



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AUCD Blue:  
Conduct and Apply  
Research and Share  
Knowledge

## COLA Goal Blue #1

Increase the visibility of COLA within the AUCD network.

### **Expected Outcome:**

COLA members actively engaged in network research.

# Strategic Map & Primary Activities



Created by BomSymbols  
from Noun Project

AUCD Blue:  
Conduct and Apply  
Research and Share  
Knowledge

## COLA Goal Blue #2

COLA is integral partner to strengthen network engagement and collaboration.

### Expected Outcome:

COLA members actively engaged in network research.

# Strategic Map & Primary Activities



Created by BomSymbols  
from Noun Project

AUCD Blue:  
Conduct and Apply  
Research and Share  
Knowledge

## **COLA Goal Blue #3**

People with I/DD &/or family members lead or direct research within AUCD network.

### **Expected Outcome:**

COLA members actively engaged in network research.

# Strategic Map & Primary Activities



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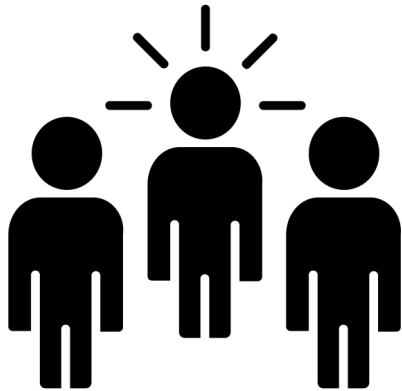
AUCD Orange:  
Advance Policies  
That Improve Lives

## COLA Goal Orange

COLA contributes to AUCD network policy, practices, and research.

**Expected Outcome:**

# What does it mean for you?

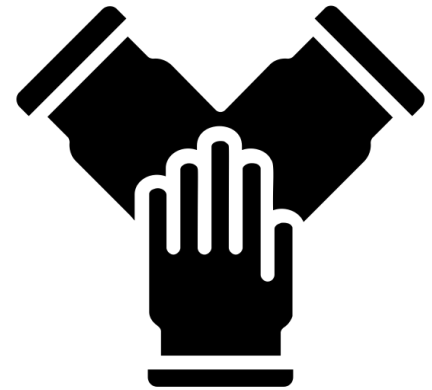


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**Leadership**



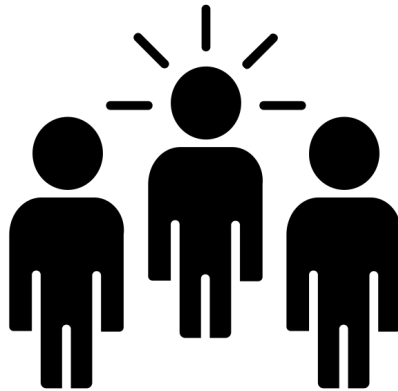
**Advocacy**



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**Collaboration**

# Leadership



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## Examples:

- Take on new responsibilities in different levels of leadership
- Take on new leadership opportunities



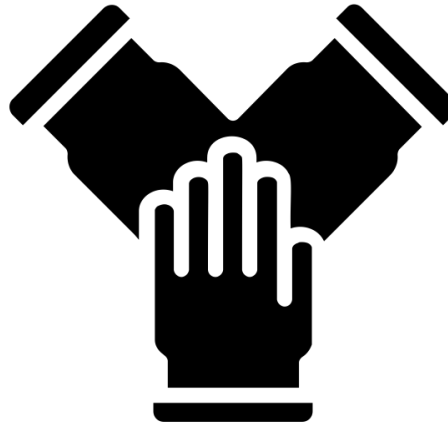
# Advocacy



## Examples:

- Making your own choices and decisions
- Making your voice heard through advocacy
- Speaking up for yourselves

# Collaboration



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## Examples:

- Work together by sharing our own expertise or different opportunities
- Serve on other councils and committees

# What are some examples of your leadership & advocacy?

## HEARING FROM YOU



Created by Chris Homan  
from Noun Project

# What could you contribute to COLA?

## HEARING FROM YOU



Created by Luis Prado  
from Noun Project

# How could COLA help you with developing your leadership or advocacy?

## HEARING FROM YOU



Created by Becris  
from Noun Project

# Get Involved

## Council Activities:

- Sign up for COLA Listserve:  
<http://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=78>
- Join a future COLA meeting via web conference

## AUCD Conference:

- Attend COLA “Driving Change” session on Sunday, November 11th from 9-11 am
- Attend COLA Full Council meeting on Sunday, November 11th from 1-5 pm

# Questions or Comments?



# References

Smith, M., Brandt, J., Olson, D. & Ritchins, G. (2017). *Nothing About Us Without Us: Increasing Leadership Opportunities Through Advocacy for People with Disabilities*. Silver Spring, MD: Association of University Centers on Disabilities.

AUCD Strategic Map,

<https://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=948>