



Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

The Impetus

Competition for the Signature and Emerging Research and Educational Areas at the University of Maine

How are these areas defined?

Areas which, “capitalize on an interdisciplinary collaboration; have a track record of success with external support from a variety of sources; and have the integration of the research, teaching and service mission.”

Leadership

The University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies took a leadership role in one **research** area and one **educational** area:

Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan (HWL)

Aging Research and Innovation

The Theory: Engagement

- Collaborative teamwork
- Ambitious projects that are meaningful to someone outside of the academic setting
- Emphasis on human rights through innovation, education and inquiry

The UCEDD as a Model for Transformative Higher Education: An Engagement Approach

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The UCEDD Structure as a Model

- The University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (ME UCEDD) structure is interdisciplinary and community connected;
- Our functions: interdisciplinary education, research and evaluation, community engagement and dissemination;
- Fields of study: interdisciplinary disability studies, humanities, engineering, art and design, technology, human performance, human development and family studies, social and basic sciences, and marketing and branding; and
- Undergraduate and graduate student preparation: innovative careers in diverse scholarly and applied fields devoted to social change focused on disability.

The Process: Collaborative and Inclusive

- Concept Papers were invited; accepted proposals were grouped into common areas to be further developed and expanded into interdisciplinary initiatives.
- Interdisciplinary faculty were convened to read, discuss and glean commonalities from concept papers.
- Literature and innovative curricula across the globe were reviewed.
- An expansive, innovative framework was developed and a paper drafted.
- Criticism and commentary from collaborators served as the basis for revision and refinement before submitting the work to the University of Maine administration.

Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan (HWL)

- Integration in higher education that is contemporary and transcends individual disciplines and professions
- Cross-cutting HWL Areas
 - Embodied health and well-being
 - Career health and well-being
 - Social health and well-being
 - Financial health and well-being
 - Community health and well-being

Aging Research and Innovation

- Integrative innovation that spans the boundaries of traditional disciplines and professions;
- Maximizes individual productivity;
- Minimizes institutionalization;
- Prevents and mitigates the impact of illness and injury; and
- Promotes community inclusion, social engagement, full accessibility, personal independence, vitality, mobility, disability and elder friendly communities, and citizen safety.