

Growing and Engaging Leaders: Creating the AUCD Trainee Alumni Network

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Goal:

The AUCD Trainee Alumni Network will build a strong national alumni community by the continuing engagement of former and graduating trainees with the AUCD network.

Vision:

This community will be an organic connection with the national AUCD network and the wider disability community. This will be accomplished by creating opportunities for mentorship (mentor and mentee), information sharing, and networking.

◆ Background

AUCD's 2015-2016 Strategic Map outlines five key priorities to strengthen the organization and network, engage the public, and expand our collective impact.

One of the five priorities is to Expand and Strengthen Network
Engagement and Collaboration. An active alumni network can help achieve a number of goals related to this priority area. It will serve as a "professional home" for people trained in the AUCD network, be a constant source of information and support, and help centers and programs better leverage expertise in their states.

In 2015, AUCD conducted two assessments of graduating trainees to determine their interest in an alumni network and what their vision for it would look like. They were asked about platforms, potential benefits (e.g. directory, job board, continuing education), and dues.

2015-2016

AUCD STRATEGIC MAP

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) advances policies, practices, and research that improve the health, education, social, and economic well-being of people with disabilities, their families, and their communities through a national network of university-based centers in every state and territory. Working with and for people with disabilities, AUCD seeks to **strengthen our network**, **engage the public**, **and expand our impact** between now and the end of 2016.



Enhance visibility and reach



Strengthen and elevate network identity

Strengthen policy and

Increase recognition and utilization of our expertise

Cultivate external partnerships and collaboration

Broaden impact on policy, practice, and research



Strengthen public policy and advocacy leadership

Increase adoption of research-based policie and practices

Promote scientific discoveries and strengthen research collaborations

Expand and strengthen network engagement and collaboration



Broaden internal network participation, collaboration, and relationships

Strengther existing and sexisting collaboration.

Expand career and eadership development and mentoring

Leverage network expertise for national and international partnerships

Increase diverse and sustainable funding



trengthen and expand existing funding

Secure new and diverse funding sources

Increase funding partnerships to leverage and grow capacity and impact

Champion and model diversity, equity, and inclusion



Integrate cultural, linguistic, and crossdisability competence across all activities

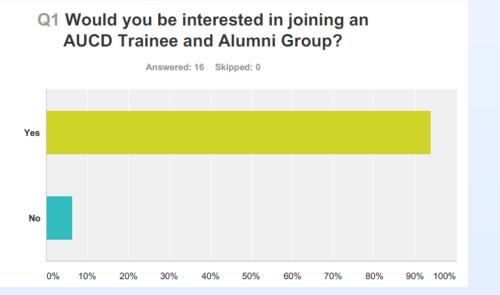
Increase engagement
of people from
underrepresented
populations in leadership
roles and all activities

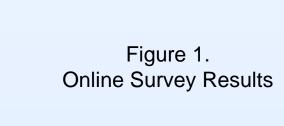
Promote equity to address disparities in access, outcomes, and quality

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♦ Results

The most important function of this group (as reported by 93% of participants) would be to <u>facilitate</u> opportunities for mentors and mentees to connect around professional interests and expertise. And according to a second 2015 poll of trainees nearing program completion, 89% would like this group to help them gain additional access to leaders in their fields.





Next Steps

AUCD has <u>established an advisory</u> <u>committee</u> that is now planning for the creation, implementation, and sustainability of an alumni group. This committee consists of central office staff, the current Virtual Trainee, and a variety of other network stakeholders.

During the AUCD conference, staff will meet with the National Training Directors Council and have an open call for former trainees (and faculty) who would like to be involved in a mentorship pilot. Staff and advisory committee members are also in the process of selecting a web-based platform where alumni will be able to connect with each other.





Mentorship Program

Partnerships between trainee alumni and faculty that create opportunities for professional guidance, learning, and leadership.

Benefits for Mentor
Leadership experience
Giving back to the network
Mentor award at conference

Benefits for Mentee
Professional guidance
Learning experience
Connections and networking

