

Vision & Voice

A QUARTERLY NEWS AND EVENT PUBLICATION OF THE
INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Fall 2010



Bookstore Spotlight



2011 IOD Calendar

The IOD welcomes 2011 with its annual outreach calendar, highlighting our dedication to community, diversity,

and inclusion. We are excited to feature original works of art by 13 talented artists from all over the world who are connected to our mission. Each work of art has been coupled with an inspirational quote that reflects the values of the IOD. In addition, every month features sponsoring programs and organizations that share in our commitment to creating more inclusive communities for people with disabilities and their families.

Available for \$10 at www.iodbookstore.com.

Join Our Mailing List

The IOD produces a variety of publications, including *Vision & Voice*, which communicate the ways we are connected to individuals and activities in New Hampshire and across the country. **If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail contact.iod@unh.edu or call 603.862.4320.**

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UNH Institutes Collaborate Around Long-Term Care

The New Hampshire Institute for Health Policy and Practice and the Institute on Disability (IOD) have received \$900,000 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for programs to better support seniors, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers as they navigate health and long-term care options. UNH is working in concert with the NH Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services and the ServiceLink Resource Center (SLRC) Network to implement these projects.

UNH received a two-year \$500,000 Aging and Disability Resource Center Options Counseling Grant, which aims to strengthen the delivery of options counseling through the state SLRC Network. Options counseling programs help people understand, evaluate, and manage the full range of private and public services and supports available in their community. With this grant, the institutes will contribute to the development of national standards for long-term care options counselors.

In addition, UNH was awarded a two-year \$400,000 Evidence-Based Care Transition Grant to coordinate and continue to encourage evidence-based care transition models that help older adults or people with disabilities transition

successfully back to the appropriate setting of their choice after a hospital admission. The grant will enhance the relationship between NH's SLRCs, hospitals, and other medical and community providers.

The grants, announced by Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in September, were made possible by the Affordable Care Act and are being

administered collaboratively by the Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Total grants—awarded to states, territories, tribal and community-based organizations—were \$68 million.

"These two awards will enhance current efforts and continue to strengthen the partnership with the NH Department of Health and Human Services to serve the people of the state."

"The Institute for Health Policy and Practice and the Institute on Disability are leaders in innovative support strategies for older adults and people with disabilities," said Jan Nisbet, senior vice provost for research at UNH. "These two awards will enhance their current efforts and continue to strengthen the partnership with the NH Department of Health and Human Services to serve the people of the state." @

For more information on aging initiatives at the IOD, visit www.iod.unh.edu.

Dr. Beasley Receives National Award

Joan Beasley, director of the *Center for Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Respite & Treatment (START) Services* at the UNH Institute on Disability, received the 2010 Frank J. Menolascino Award for Excellence at the National Association of Dual Diagnosis (NADD) Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington, in November 2010.

This prestigious national award is given annually to promote excellence in the field of dual diagnosis. It is awarded in the memory of Dr. Frank J. Menolascino, who pioneered international attention to and improvements in the comprehensive, humane care of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

"We are honored that Dr. Beasley has been

recognized with this distinction," said Linda Bimbo, IOD interim director. "This award underscores the important national contributions she has made toward strengthening

service outcomes for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental health needs in the community."

Beasley has worked to promote the development of effective services for people with disabilities and their families for more than 30 years. Along with the late Robert Sovner, she co-founded the START/Sovner Center program in Danvers, Massachusetts, which she directed from 1989 until 2000. She currently serves as the director of the *Center for START Services*, now a program at the IOD, and is a research associate professor at the University of New Hampshire.

"I am honored to be acknowledged by NADD, an organization that has pioneered efforts to improve supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and behavioral health care needs and their families for more than 25 years," said Beasley.

The *Center for START Services* is a national initiative that strengthens efficiencies and service outcomes for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental health needs in the community. @

For more information on the Center for START Services, visit www.centerforstartservices.com.

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IOD Featured on Autism Radio Series

In a week-long series during November 2010, New Hampshire Public Radio correspondent Sheryl Rich-Kern looked at the impact of autism on families, schools, and towns in New Hampshire.

The IOD's Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D. was featured as part of the series, discussing the research base for the inclusion of student with disabilities—including autism—in the general education classroom. "There's a positive relationship between the amount of time students with disabilities spend in a regular classroom and their academic achievements, social skills, communication skills, and positive outcomes after they leave school," said Jorgensen. In an NHPR web extra, she discussed the concepts of mainstreaming and inclusion, as well as the need for supporting inclusive curriculum in New Hampshire schools.

To browse the featured stories in this radio series, visit www.nhpr.org/special/autism.



Did You Know?

New Hampshire ranks 19th in the country and 3rd in New England with regard to the employment of working-age people with disabilities (ages 18-64). According to 2009 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, among the 76,000 working-age people with disabilities in New Hampshire, 30,000 (or 39%) are employed, compared to 80% of working-age people without disabilities. Nationally, 35% of working-age people with disabilities are employed, compared to 74% of working-age people without disabilities. In New England, Connecticut has the highest percentage of working-age people with disabilities employed (41%), followed by Vermont (40%), New Hampshire (39%), Maine (37%), Rhode Island (36%), and Massachusetts (35%).

For more statistics on people with disabilities in New Hampshire and other states, visit www.DisabilityCompendium.org, which is a collaborative effort of the IOD, Hunter College, and the American Association of People with Disabilities.

Feedback

Have a comment, suggestion, or story idea? We value your input. E-mail contact.iod@unh.edu or call **603.862.4320** to let us know how we're doing and how we can better serve you.

Share the IOD with a friend:

Please let friends or colleagues know about us. *Pass us along!*

IOD to Develop Online Employment Training

Ensuring an adequate workforce of well-trained staff has been an ongoing challenge in vocational rehabilitation. Due to lack of training in a wide variety of on-the-job strategies, support professionals are often ill-equipped to thoroughly support individuals with disabilities in order for them to achieve their fullest potential as employees. In New Hampshire, the average employment service staff member receives only about 13 hours of job training, primarily focused on organizational policies and paperwork.

In response to this need, the IOD has been awarded a three-year, \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to develop online training for professionals who support individuals with disabilities pursuing employment.

This new project, called the *Employment Consultant Training* project, is developing online training modules to teach employment specialists, job coaches, and other direct-service employment staff how to maximize the social inclusion of employees with disabilities and use support strategies that are naturally incorporated into the work environment. For example, trainees will learn how to include employees with disabilities in lunch and break-time social conversation, and how to show company staff how to best train employees.

"Individuals with disabilities have demonstrated that they can be productive and even exceptional

Individuals with disabilities have demonstrated that they can be productive and even exceptional employees when provided with the right supports. Well-trained staff can work in partnership with employers to provide those supports."

employees when provided with the right supports," said project director David Hagner, research professor at the IOD. "Well-trained staff can work in partnership with employers to provide those supports."

During the first two years of the project, project staff from New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, and New York will complete a facilitated online training module that teaches strategies for analyzing workplace cultures and planning for natural supports and workplace

inclusion. Following the training, participants will implement the strategies to provide job support while completing surveys, interviews, and focus group sessions to evaluate the training's effectiveness. Participant feedback will inform revisions to the

training, with the final version being made available to community rehabilitation programs nationwide.

Grant partners include co-investigator and module developer Bryan Dague from the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion at the University of Vermont. Additional project collaborators include the vocational rehabilitation and mental health and developmental services offices in New England and New York, and the community rehabilitation organizations providing employment services in those states. @

For more information on the *Employment Consultant Training* project, visit www.iod.unh.edu.

Highlighting IOD Donors

Making Life Easier Through Creative Problem Solving

Therese Willkomm, Ph.D. has been developing solutions for easier living, learning, working, and playing for people across the country for more than two decades. As clinical assistant professor of occupational therapy at the University of New Hampshire and project director of *Assistive Technology in New Hampshire* (ATinNH) at the IOD, she is known as the "MacGyver" of assistive technology—fashioning tools from everyday objects that make life easier for people with disabilities.

Since 2004, Dr. Willkomm's work has received generous support from **The Gibney Family Foundation** (TGFF) of Shelburne, Vermont. Grants from the foundation have helped to underwrite the publication of two books—*Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes* and *Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes, Volume II* (under development)—that provide hundreds of ways to utilize items such as duct tape, Plexiglas, and PVC tubing to create low-cost solutions to everyday challenges for people with disabilities.

Another grant helped to support an Assistive Technology Trainers Collaborative to prepare and equip a corps of trainers to support teachers, therapists, and individuals with disabilities in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine in making the most of available assistive technologies—from accessing funding to putting adaptive learning tools to work in the classroom.

An aging population and changing health care make Willkomm's assistive technology solutions more relevant than ever. "The number of people with disabilities will continue to rise, but the money to support them remains level. That means we've got to be creative," says Willkomm.

"Supporting Dr. Willkomm is a natural fit for what we want to achieve at The Gibney Family Foundation," said Joleen Dudley, TGFF Grant Chairman. "When we partner with organizations like the IOD, and see how much can be accomplished with the funding we contribute, it is extremely rewarding."

TGFF works with and supports effective non-profit organizations dedicated to helping those who are challenged, particularly individuals who are blind. @

To learn more about making a tax-deductible gift to the IOD, please contact:

Mary Schuh, Ph.D. – Associate Director of Consumer Affairs and Development
Institute on Disability / UCED
56 Old Suncook Road, Suite 2
Concord, NH 03301
603.228.2084 | mary.schuh@unh.edu

or visit www.iod.unh.edu for easy and secure online donation.



CALENDAR

E V E N T S / W O R K S H O P S

AT for All

Eight hands-on, interactive assistive technology (AT) workshops featuring practical solutions for home, school, work, and play.

Remaining Sessions:

November 4, 2010 – Assistive Technology for Older Adults

Cost: \$95

January 10, 2011 – Creating Interactive Computer Activities with Boardmaker Plus! v.6

Cost: \$95

February 2, 2011 – Assistive Technology and Transition

Cost: \$95

March 9, 2011 – Beyond Duct Tape and Velcro: 101 AT Solutions YOU Can Make Using Everyday Materials

Cost: \$175

April 7, 2011 – Universally Designed Technology to Support Reading, Writing, and Communication in the General Education Classroom

Cost: \$35

May 4, 2011 – Natural Support Strategies and Assistive Technology Solutions in the Workplace

May 13, 2011 – There's an App for That! Mobile Applications to Increase Independence

Cost: \$95

Time: 9am–3pm, except April 7 (4pm–6pm)

Locations: IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH
Holiday Inn, Concord, NH (May 13 only)

Presenters: David Hagner, Ph.D., Dan Herlihy, & Therese Willkomm, Ph.D.

Inclusive Practices in Action

Workshops providing support for those trying to fully include their students in the general education curriculum.

Sessions:

November 9, 2010 – Free Web-Based Books for Developing Literacy and other Academic Skills for Students with Disabilities

December 2, 2010 – Using Activity Task Strips to Assist Students with Task Completion

January 11, 2011 – Using Web-Based Adapted Books to Connect Students with Disabilities to the General Education Curriculum

February 8, 2011 – Using Collaborative Teaming to Support Learning of the General Education Curriculum by Students with Disabilities

March 8, 2011 – Writing Standards-Based Individual Education Plans (IEPs) with Measurable Objectives

Time: 4pm–6pm, except March 8 (4pm–7pm)

Location: IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH

Cost: \$35 each

Presenter: Laurie Lambert, M.Ed.

Person-Centered Planning for Older Adults

An introduction to person-centered planning, including an overview of a person-centered system of care, information on how to facilitate person-centered planning meetings, and tools to use in the planning process.

Dates & Location: November 10, 2010; April 20 & May 11, 2011 – IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH

Time: 9am–4pm

Cost: \$25

Presenters: Susan Fox, M.Ed., MA & Patty Cotton, M.Ed.

Emergent Literacy Learning in Early Childhood Education – Designing Environments, Producing Results

Workshops focusing on creating multiple and rich opportunities for young children, with and without disabilities, to develop emergent literacy skills and knowledge.

Sessions:

November 16 & December 7, 2010 – Designing High-Quality Literacy Learning Environments in Preschool

Cost: \$300

February 15, 2011 – Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation Tool (ELLCO Pre-K)

Cost: \$175

April 5 & 19, 2011 – Emergent Literacy Assessments for Young Children: Using the Individual Growth Development Indicators (IGDIs)

Cost: \$250

Time: 8:30am–3:30pm

Location: IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH

Presenter: Leigh Rohde, M.Ed.

Going for Guardianship

Information and tools necessary to guide and assist families through the entire process of obtaining guardianship of older adults.

Dates & Locations:

November 17, 2010 – Common Man Inn & Spa, Plymouth, NH

January 12, 2011 – IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH

March 16, 2011 – Common Man Inn & Restaurant, Claremont, NH

May 11, 2011 – Best Western Hotel and Suites, Portsmouth, NH

July 14, 2011 – Highlander Inn & Conference Center, Manchester, NH

Time: 9am–3pm

Cost: \$30

Presenter: Mary McGuire, Esq.

Foundations in Transition

Training in practices shown to improve the self-determination skills of youth and to provide educators, community providers, and family members with tools to help young people succeed.

Dates & Location: December 2, 2010; January 11, February 2, March 9, & April 13, 2011 – Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

Time: 8am–2:30pm, except February 2 (9am–3pm)

Cost: \$95

Presenters: Dawn Breault, Heidi Cloutier, Donna Couture, Jennifer Cunha, Jonathon Drake, David Hagner, Amy Jenks, JoAnne Malloy, Therese Willkomm, Heidi Wyman

Fundamentals of Inclusive Education

Age-specific workshops featuring presenters from schools that are successfully including students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities Presented by the National Center on Inclusive Education.

Remaining Sessions:

December 7, 2010 – Strategies for Middle School Inclusion

December 14, 2010 – Strategies for High School Inclusion

Time: 9am–3pm

Location: IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH

Cost: \$85 each

Presenter: Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D.

2010-2011 Research to Practice Series: Implementation and Sustainability of Inclusive Education

A Series for School & District Administrators

Nationally-recognized researchers and policy scholars present cutting-edge information on factors related to the research-to-implementation-to-sustainability gap in inclusive education, along with effective strategies and structures for closing this gap. Presented by the National Center on Inclusive Education.

Remaining Dates: December 17, 2010; January 20, March 31, May 5, 2011

Time: 9am–3pm, except March 31 (11am–5pm)

Locations: IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH
Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH (3/31/11 only)

Cost: \$75 each

Facilitators: Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D. & Mary C. Schuh, Ph.D.

IOD Leadership

Linda Bimbo, MS – *Interim Director*
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Matthew Gianino, BA – *Associate Director,*
Communications & Technology
Andrew Houtenville, Ph.D. – *Research Director*
Betsy Humphreys, M.Ed. – *NH-LEND Training*
Director
Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D. – *Research Assistant*
Professor
Monica McClain, Ph.D. – *Project Manager*
Mary C. Schuh, Ph.D. – *Associate Director,*
Consumer Affairs & Development

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Support the IOD!

As a community oriented non-profit focused on ensuring that equal opportunities and a satisfying quality of life are accessible to all persons, we rely on the generosity of supporters like you to help further the mission of the IOD. If you would like to contribute to the IOD, tax-deductible donations can be made:

Online
www.iod.unh.edu

Mail
56 Old Suncook Road, Suite 2
Concord, NH 03301

Phone
603.228.2084
An IOD staff member will assist you with the process and answer any questions you may have about your contribution.

National Initiative Offers Free Online Training

The National Inclusive Education Initiative (NIEI), a project of the IOD, is now offering free online inclusive education professional development. Each convenient webinar series offers state-of-the-art professional development related to inclusive education for students with autism and related disabilities.

“The UNH Institute on Disability is nationally renowned for developing curriculum and providing technical assistance to support youth with Autism related disorder,” said Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter (NH-D), who secured the initial funding for the NIEI through the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.

Individual webinars are between 60 and 120 minutes in length, consisting of a PowerPoint presentation, practical examples, research citations, links to related professional articles, and, in some cases, video examples. Each series comes complete with pre-tests, post-tests, evaluations, and optional fieldwork assignments for translating knowledge into practice.

In the *Fundamentals of Inclusive Education Series*, educators and parents will find 15 webinars including:

- New Views of Students with Autism & Related Disabilities
- Planning Supports for Instruction, Communication, and Behavior

IOD Receives \$4.25M from Dept. of Education

People with disabilities experience persistently low employment rates, low participation in employment services programs, delays in receiving services, and limited funding for services. Participation in safety net programs for this population is high, and there is little coordination between employment services and safety net programs.

To address these issues, policy makers, program administrators, advocates, and people with disabilities need compelling evidence-based information on the effectiveness of past employment initiatives and the impacts of potential options for policy changes, as well as effective ways of measuring and monitoring employment outcomes as policies change.

A five-year, \$4.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) will allow the IOD to study and measure the impact of national policies and programs on the employment of people with disabilities.

This grant will establish a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on employment policy and measurement at UNH to meet these needs and facilitate the translation of research findings into policy making and program administration. Annual research-to-policy roundtables, an online training series, and a national conference will provide a variety of

- Inclusion Beyond the Walls of the Classroom
- Writing Standards-Based IEPs

The *Administrators' Leadership Series*, designed for general and special education administrators, features the following five trainings:

- New Views of Students with Autism & Related Disabilities
- Including Families and Students as Partners
- Creating a Leadership Team
- Creating a Welcoming Classroom, School, and Community
- Desired Outcomes for Students with Autism

Upon completion of a webinar, participants will receive a staff development certificate reflecting its length. Participants who complete a full series including fieldwork assignments by spring 2011 will be entered into a drawing to receive one of several packages of incentives—the grand prize being one complementary registration to the IOD's 2011 Autism Summer Institute, including airfare and hotel accommodations. ☺

For more information and to register for the webinars, visit www.iod.unh.edu/niei.

accessible opportunities to discuss the RRTC's findings. In addition, the Center will publish a research-to-policy brief series as well as provide varying levels of technical assistance.

“Through this project, the RRTC will generate new knowledge and techniques to move the field of disability policy studies forward and facilitate utilization of this knowledge among key stakeholders,” said Andrew Houtenville, IOD research director and principal investigator of the project. “In doing so, we expect to positively influence the integration of government

programs and ultimately increase employment and social participation of people with disabilities.”

“I congratulate the University of New Hampshire on receiving this important grant,” said U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen. “This funding will

not only help the Institute on Disability at UNH analyze the relationship between government programs and the employment of people with disabilities, but also turn those research findings into policies that improve the lives of New Hampshire citizens.”

Grant partners include the UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics, Mathematica Policy Research, and the American Association of People with Disabilities, as well as Cornell, Rutgers, and Syracuse universities. ☺

For more information on the RRTC, visit www.iod.unh.edu.

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