Message from the Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

I hope this holiday season finds you and your family in happiness and good health. As 2014 comes to a close, we want to thank all of you for your friendship and partnership in working to create a world where people with developmental disabilities and their families have more opportunities. We are inspired by the people with DD, their family members and supporters we have been privileged to work with and we’d like to thank all of you.

As you consider your end of year charitable donations, we’d appreciate you considering the Sonoran UCEDD. Donations may be made to the UA Foundation (Sonoran UCEDD) by check or through our web-link at University of Arizona Foundation Sonoran UCEDD designation. If you’d like to learn more about making a tax-deductible gift to one of our programs you can also contact John Fung at 520-626-7383 or by email at jbfung@email.arizona.edu.

We hope you enjoy reading what we’ve been up to and look forward to working with all of you to foster community and inclusion in 2015!

All the best,

Leslie J. Cohen
Director
Sonoran UCEDD
Family and Community Medicine
University of Arizona
Sonoran UCEDD at the 2014 AUCD Annual Conference & Meeting

The 2014 Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Annual Conference – AUCD Unleashed: The Power of Engagement – was held November 8-12 in Washington, DC. The Conference presented a great opportunity for Sonoran UCEDD faculty and staff to learn about the latest research and innovative practices in the disability field and to network with colleagues from across the country and territories. A highlight for the UCEDD was the 2014 Presidents Award presented to Sonoran UCEDD Director Leslie Cohen, the outgoing President of the AUCD Board of Directors.

Presentations
The Sonoran UCEDD presented as part of two concurrent sessions, three poster symposia, and two poster sessions as detailed below. For a look at the full conference program and available conference materials, please go to http://www.aucd.org/conference

Sonoran UCEDD Concurrent Session:

- Engaging bi-national communities to support a social business manufacturing medical devices: training, employment, and leadership opportunities for individuals with disabilities
  
  Burris Duncan, MD, Professor of Pediatrics & Public Health, Sonoran UCEDD
  Heidi Pottinger, MA, MPH, DrPH candidate, UA College of Public Health
  Francisco Kiko Trujillo, ARSOBO, Nogales, Mexico
  and Karin Shipman, ARSOBO
  This session addressed the creation and sustainability of a cross-border innovative social business in Northern Mexico, ARSOBO. ARSOBO trains/employs individuals with disabilities to manufacture medical devices they use: all-terrain wheelchairs constructed by wheelchair riders, prostheses fabricated by amputees, and high quality hearing aids with solar-powered hearing aid battery re-chargers assembled by the hard-of-hearing. Each is sold for what families can afford to ensure pride of ownership and maintain dignity.

- Healthcare Transition Updates from the Field
  Ilka Riddle, PhD, University of Cincinnati UCEDD/LEND; Adriane Griffen, MPH, MCHES, AUCD
  Steve Sulkes, MD, and Lisa DeLucia, DDS, Rochester NY UCEDD/LEND;
  Leslie Cohen, JD, Sonoran UCEDD
  This session featured presentations from three Special Hope Foundation Grantees, including the Sonoran UCEDD on efforts to improve the health care transition for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.  
  http://www.aucd.org/conference/detail/session_presentation.cfm?id=15636

Sonoran UCEDD Poster Symposia:

- Transforming Training, Teaching and Outreach to Engage Diverse Stakeholders: Components of A Successful Interprofessional Learning Activity
  The Active Engagement Among Health Science Students, Faculty, and Persons with Disabilities
  Lynne Tomasa PhD, and Leslie Cohen, JD
  The University of Arizona Sonoran UCEDD was involved in the design and evaluation of an interprofessional activity for law,
medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and social work students since 2007. The activity was revised yearly based on an online evaluation and comments from students, faculty, and staff. The data demonstrates students have increased understanding and comfort levels with individuals with disabilities as a result of the activity.

http://www.aucd.org/conference/detail/session_presentation.cfm?id=15461

- Making It Real: What Research Tells Us About Social Inclusion
  Parent-Mediated Interventions and the Effects of Maternal Sensitivity on Joint Attention Skills and Social Responsiveness in Young Children with Autism
  Ann Mastergeorge, PhD; Chandni Parikh, Family Studies & Human Development (FSHD)
  Parent-mediated interventions for young children with autism are considered to be an effective evidence-based treatment. This current study contributes to our understanding of targeted parent-mediated interventions as well as the influences of joint attention strategies that appear to influence maternal sensitivity. The findings suggest that as maternal sensitivity increases over time, children’s joint attention and early language skills as well as responsiveness to social cues in the environment are enhanced.

- Improving the Hand-off: A Collaborative Approach to Transitions Throughout the Lifespan
  Creating a "Picture of a Life": Empowering and Supporting Foster Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities toward Positive Futures
  Jacy Farkas, MA and Lynne Tomasa, PhD Sonoran UCEDD
  Melissa Kushner, MSW, AZ Division of Developmental Disabilities
  Youth with disabilities in foster care are at a severe disadvantage in moving toward successful adulthood. Through a collaborative initiative with the Arizona DD agency and independent living centers, the Sonoran UCEDD is implementing a statewide program for foster youth with I/DD, offering person-centered plans (PCP) and self-advocacy workshops. This initiative evaluates the efficacy of PCP, facilitator behaviors, and cross-systems collaboration to improve outcomes of transition to adulthood.

http://www.aucd.org/conference/detail/session_presentation.cfm?id=15468

Sonoran UCEDD Poster Session:
- An Automated Language Environment Analysis (LENA) For Understanding Language Profiles in Young Children with Down Syndrome, Autism, and Typical Development
  Chandi Parikh, AZLEND trainee, FSHD
  Payal Anand, FSHD, Down Syndrome Research Group (DSRG)
  Jamie Edgin, PhD, Sonoran UCEDD, DSRG, Psychology
  Ann Mastergeorge, PhD, Sonoran UCEDD, FSHD
  Understanding language profiles in young children with developmental disorders is critical for targeting early intervention. The use of the Automated Language Environment Analysis (LENA) provides information related to sixteen hours of vocalizations for each child with Down Syndrome, autism, and typical development. A description of LENA, developmental language profiles and implications these analyses have for engaging families in targeted language interventions were discussed in the poster.

http://www.aucd.org/conference/detail/session_presentation.cfm?id=15384
Arizona’s Annual African American Symposium on Disabilities: Engaging Underserved Populations, Increasing Meaningful Statewide Partnerships, and Taking it National!

Jacy Farkas, MA, Sonoran UCEDD
Renaldo Fowler, BS, Arizona Center for Disability Law
David Carey, BS, Arizona Bridge to Independent Living

The African American Symposium on Disabilities has been a one-day conference providing culturally relevant information and resources to self-advocates, families and professionals. What started as an Arizona DD Network and Independent Living Center collaboration, has grown to include individuals, local organizations, and state agencies related to disability and from the greater community. The poster shows its humble beginnings, strategies to engaging underserved populations, measuring success, and national expansion.

http://www.aucd.org/conference/detail/session_presentation.cfm?id=15467

Sonoran UCEDD Project SEARCH Arizona – Project of the Year Award

Linkages honored Project SEARCH with the 2014 Project of the Year award at the annual Building Bridges awards luncheon. Project SEARCH was recognized for its work partnering with agencies and employers dedicated to maximizing employment opportunities for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This award has been established to recognize an outstanding project that has demonstrated a commitment to helping individuals with disabilities gain meaningful employment and reach their potential.

The Sonoran UCEDD and its community partners launched the first Arizona Project SEARCH program at University of Arizona Medical Center (UAMC) at South Campus in August 2009. Programming in Tucson has since expanded to UAMC University Campus and University of Arizona. Many young people who have graduated from a program site are now competitively employed or are furthering their education/training.

Linkages, a nonprofit organization that connects individuals with disabilities with employment opportunities was established in 1996 by Jim Click.

To learn more about Project SEARCH, visit our website at:
http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/project-search-arizona

To learn more about Linkages, visit their website at:
http://www.linkagesarizona.org/
ArtWorks had its fourth annual Talent Show at ZUZI Theater on August 21st. It has become ArtWorks tradition during our hot summer to have our artists focus on their performing arts talent. This year’s theme was “Travel Through Time,” and the talent show featured contemporary, big band, Hollywood, western, and other performance styles. Performances ranged from group singing numbers to highflying trapeze acts, to standup comedy.

Gabriel Rischelle, a long-time ArtWorks staff member, former UCEDD trainee and current AZ LEND trainee directed this event. Gabe guided a team of workers, organizing event details, assigning tasks, and directing day-to-day rehearsals. ArtWorks staff and student workers assisted our artists in selecting songs, making props and costumes, and coming up with their acts. Throughout the show, the magical live performance projected the warm, respectful, humorous and gentle friendships of the ArtWorks community. The audience of ArtWorks’ families/friends and the surrounding University community thoroughly enjoyed their performances and are looking forward to the next Talent Show!

Art Show & Open House

The UA Artworks featured the art work of 24 artists with Intellectual and Development Disabilities at their annual Art Show/Open House on October 3st at ArtWorks in the Mary Paulin Gallery.

ArtWorks, is an art studio and day program where the creative and expressive arts processes promote mutual learning opportunities between adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the University of Arizona students. ArtWorks is part of the Department of Family and Community Medicine’s outreach efforts and is housed in the Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).

This year the exhibition was titled “Desert Harvest.” The artists used this title as inspiration for creating original expressive pieces that exhibit their skills with a variety of materials such as ceramics, acrylic and watercolor paintings, wood, prints and fabrics. All of the proceeds are distributed between the artists and their materials fund.

To learn more about ArtWorks, please visit: http://artworks.arizona.edu
Creating a “Picture of a Life” Seeking PCP Facilitators – New Facilitator Training in February 2015

With funding from the Arizona DD Planning Council, the Sonoran UCEDD in collaboration with the Division of Developmental Disabilities expanded the person-centered planning (PCP) project, Creating a “Picture of a Life” for Transitioning Youth with DD in Foster Care. Part of the expansion effort is to grow the number of people in Arizona who have the skills to facilitate person-centered plans with individuals with disabilities and their circles of support.

A new PCP Facilitator training will be held on February 19 & 20, 2015 in Tucson, AZ. This two day training provides the skills and knowledge needed to facilitate a PCP – a positive and strengths-based process that enables individuals with disabilities and their circle of supports to plan for the future. Special attention will be made on utilizing this process for times of transition, most specifically the transition to adult living from school and the child welfare system. This also incorporates the Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs curriculum for creating a Health Care Organizer.

If you would like to RSVP for this training and are interested in becoming a PCP Facilitator for the “Picture of a Life” project, please contact the Sonoran UCEDD at ucedd@email.arizona.edu | 520.626.0442. For more information and any questions, please contact the Project Director, Jacy Farkas, at jkbell@email.arizona.edu.

To learn more about Creating a “Picture of a Life”, please visit our website: http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/person-centered-initiative

Sonoran UCEDD is now on Social Media!

Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/sonoran.ucedd

Follow us on Twitter
https://twitter.com/Sonoran_UCEDD

Follow us on LinkedIn
Sonoran UCEDD (company page)

We look forward to networking with you!

To find information about community events and trainings throughout the state of Arizona, please go to our Community Events Calendar on the Sonoran UCEDD website: http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/community_events
The 4th Annual African American Symposium on Disabilities in February 2015 – Currently accepting proposals for poster presentations!

The Sonoran UCEDD along with the DD Network, ABIL and other community partners is proud to present the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan sponsored 4th Annual African American Symposium on Disabilities in February 2015 at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix, AZ. Self-advocates, family members, professionals and the greater community are invited to participate in this event to learn from one another and share resources. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for professionals. Workshops will include topics such as self-advocacy, special education law, employment law, autism, positive behavior supports, mental health, assistive technology, diabetes, cardiovascular care, affordable health care act, diversity, cultural competency, transition, and more.

We are excited to announce that the Commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Aaron Bishop, will open the Symposium; and Tawara Goode, Director of the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University, will be the lunch keynote speaker.

And for the first time, the Symposium is accepting proposals for the Black Legacy Endowment Poster Session!

Submit proposals by Friday, December 19, 2014. Accepted presenters will be notified by December 25, 2014. For proposal submission materials and instructions, please go to http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/annual-african-american-symposium-disabilities

For more information, please contact us at AfricanAmericanDisabilitySym@gmail.com

Sponsorship and Vendor/Exhibitor Opportunities: http://2015africanamericansymposiumondisabilitiessponsor.eventbrite.com

Registration Opening Soon!

To get the latest information about the 4th Annual Symposium, like and follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/AnnualAfricanAmericanSymposiumOnDisabilities

East Valley NAACP 2014 Humanitarian Award Recipients

Renaldo Fowler, a Senior Staff Advocate with the Arizona Center for Disability Law, along with David Carey, an Advocacy Specialist with Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL), were recognized for their collaboration in developing the African American Symposium on Disabilities and for their outstanding work in advocating for the empowerment of African Americans with disabilities. Together they were awarded the East Valley National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 2014 Humanitarian Award.

They were recognized and awarded during the 40th Freedom Fund Gala Awards Banquet on October 4, 2014 at the Historic Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort Pavilion in Chandler Arizona. This year’s event was an extra special occasion, as the East Valley NAACP chapter celebrated their 50th anniversary.

For more information about the East Valley NAACP Chapter, go to their website at http://bazaarproductions.wix.com/evnaacp
Save the Date! Movie Presentation on January 30, 2015
FIXED – The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement

Friday, January 30, 2015
4:45 pm - 7:30 pm

McClelland Park
University of Arizona Campus
650 N Park Ave., Room 105
Tucson, AZ 85719

Join us for a very thought provoking film, including a reception and a panel discussion, sponsored by University of Arizona’s Sonoran UCEDD, Frances McClelland Institute, and Disability Resource Center.

From bionic limbs and neural implants to prenatal screening, researchers around the world are hard at work developing a myriad of technologies to fix or enhance the human body. FIXED: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement takes a close look at the drive to be “better than human” and the radical technological innovations that may take us there.

What does “disabled” mean when a man with no legs can run faster than most people in the world? What does “normal” mean when cosmetic surgery procedures have risen over 450% percent in the last fifteen years and increasing numbers of people turn to “smart drugs” every day to get ahead at school or work? With prenatal screening able to predict hundreds of probable conditions, who should determine what kind of people get to be born? If you could augment your body’s abilities in any way imaginable, would you?

Please RSVP to this event by emailing Sacha Cueto at sachac@email.arizona.edu or by phone at 520-626-0442 by January 21, 2015.

For Movie Trailer & Location visit the event announcement at:
http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/event/movie-presentation-fixed-sciencefiction-human-enhancement-1

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council Refresh
AZ Dept. of Health Services Director's Blog, Will Humble

Arizona’s Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the Sonoran UCEDD’s DD Network sister agency got some good news at the end of November after learning that Governor Brewer extended the Executive Order that created the Council in 2009. The Executive Order authorizes the Council to continue its work through 2019 in supporting persons with developmental disabilities and their families by funding important projects related to employment, self-advocacy and educational opportunities.

Funded through the federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the Council funds innovative projects that help persons with developmental disabilities become more included in their communities either by achieving systems change or increasing capacity.

To learn more about the Council, stop by their office located at 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 410, Phoenix, or visit their Website, Facebook or Twitter sites. https://www.azdes.gov/ADDPC
Exciting New Resource for Health Care Professionals

HealthMeet® partnered with the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) to develop online modules about the health and health care of adults with I/DD. Sonoron UCEDD Director, Leslie Cohen was part of the team developing Module 1 and the case studies are being used as part of the University of Arizona’s College of Medicine’s Interprofessional Education and Practice Program disability activity for health sciences students. These modules can assist all health professionals working with people with I/DD and help professionals provide the best medical services possible. Module 1: Understanding Health and Health Promotion for People with ID has been available since last year. Now, there is also Module 2: Communication Skills in the context of health and wellness. Both modules can be accessed at www.iddhealthtraining.org.

To learn more about what HealthMeet is doing, visit the Arc’s website at http://www.thearc.org/healthmeet

Introducing the New Ticket to Work Website!

Just in time for its 15th anniversary, the Ticket to Work program has launched a redesigned beneficiary website at www.choosework.net. The website is part of Social Security’s efforts to help people with disabilities who want to work find and keep a job to reduce or eliminate their need for cash benefits.

The website is the place to start to learn about the Ticket to Work program, which provides free employment support services to Social Security disability beneficiaries who want to work. The site has an improved layout and is easier to use. It also offers more information to support you or someone you know on the journey to financial independence. We encourage you to visit the site to explore its new features. Learn more: http://www.chooseworkttw.net/blog/introducing-the-new-ticket-to-work-website-

PEAT – Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) announced the launch of PEATworks.org – a comprehensive web portal spearheaded by the Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT).

From educational articles to interactive tools to expert interviews, PEATworks.org has something for everyone. We encourage you to stop by, explore, and get excited about accessible technology.

Please browse their site to find resources for employers, technology providers and technology users with disabilities: http://www.peatworks.org

The PARTNERSHIP ON EMPLOYMENT & ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY (PEAT) is a new national resource to facilitate and promote the use of accessible technology in the hiring, employment, retention, and career advancement of individuals with disabilities. PEAT is funded by the Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor, Grant #OD-23864-12-75-451.

Learn more at http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20141935.htm
Guidance on Bullying of Students with Disabilities
U.S. Department of Education

If a student with a disability is being bullied, federal law requires schools to take immediate and appropriate action to investigate the issue and, as necessary, take steps to stop the bullying and prevent it from recurring. The latest letter from the U.S. Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) makes clear that the protections for students with disabilities who are bullied on any basis extend to the roughly three quarters of a million students who are not eligible for IDEA services but are entitled to services under the broader Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. That law bars discrimination on the basis of disability in all programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.

Help is available for those who are either targets of disability bullying or know of someone who might.

- A fact sheet for parents on schools’ obligations under federal law to address bullying.
- Visiting the federal Web site which provides useful information on bullying prevention and remedies.
- Asking to meet with the student’s team that designs his or her individualized education program – the IEP or Section 504 teams.
- Asking to meet with the principal or school district’s special education coordinators to have the school address bullying concerns.
- Seeking help from OCR. The office investigates complaints of disability discrimination at schools.

Letter from the U.S. Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to public school educators http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-bullying-201410.pdf

Parent Fact Sheet http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-bullying-201410.pdf

Federal Web Site http://www.stopbullying.gov/

Office for Civil Rights www.ed.gov/ocr

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Join our Mailing List!

The Sonoran UCEDD produces a variety of publications, including Sonoran UCEDD News, which communicates the ways we are connected to individuals and activities in Arizona and across the country. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please click here to subscribe to our newsletter or call 520.626.0442.

Current and archived issues of the newsletter can be viewed at http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/newsletter

If you would like to receive this document in an alternate format, please call the Sonoran UCEDD at 520.626.0442.

To submit comments or news items, please email the Editor, Sacha Cueto, at ucedd@email.arizona.edu