Center for Disabilities Studies 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT



2010 CALENDAR



Welcome to the Center for Disabilities Studies



Center for Disabilities Studies Director Beth Mineo

The Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) at the University of Delaware supports the well-being, inclusion, and empowerment of people with disabilities and their families. Our work is credible and relevant because it is conducted in partnership with those it benefits: community providers, government agencies, inter-

ested citizens, and, of course, people with disabilities and members of their families.

Since our founding in 1993, CDS activities have influenced policies and practices throughout the state. As one of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in this country, our work also has national and global impact.

With new leadership at the Center, the past year has been one of reflection, evaluation, and change. Our plan is to develop the most effective structure for achieving our mission: to enhance the lives of individuals and families in Delaware through education, prevention, service, and research related to disabilities.

In this annual report, we share highlights of the 2009 fiscal year – the period from July 1, 2008 through

June 30, 2009. Most accomplishments were the products of teamwork with our numerous partners. Each calendar page features a project and/or issue of importance to achieving our mission. The report concludes with a list of additional CDS highlights, facts, and figures.

This report is just one example of how the Center for Disabilities Studies disseminates information and advocates for people with disabilities.

Please visit our website at www.udel.edu/cds to learn more about the Center for Disabilities Studies.



Visitors are welcomed to CDS by Office Clerk Blake Bossert.

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER 2	-	RUARY 2010			New Year's Day	2
	4 5 1 0 11 12 7 8 7 18 19 14 15 1 4 25 26 21 22 2	T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27			1	2
						University of Delaware Winter Commencement
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19	20	LIFE Conference Dover, Delaware	22	23
17	10	12	20	ΖΙ		23
24						
31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Community Collaborations Lead to Early Head Start Success

For New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS), community collaborations enhance the development of infants and toddlers and help parents do the best job they can of raising their very young children. As NDEHS director Heidi Beck says, **"Partnering with community centers is the way to do it—it is a mutually beneficial relationship. NDEHS benefits from the centers' knowledge of and relationships with the local community while we provide the latest research and best practice information.**"

NDEHS also provides technical assistance, training, and resource supports to its four community partners for their programs for children birth through age three, matching the services with the unique needs of each center. Partners are the Early Learning Center (ELC) at Neighborhood House in Wilmington's Southbridge neighborhood and the ELC in Newark, both part of the University of Delaware; Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center in Wilmington; and the Kent County Community School site, part of the Delaware Early Childhood Center, in Dover.

While NDEHS staff members do not provide direct services to the children at the centers, the home visitor program guides women through pregnancy, helps mothers with parenting skills, and monitors the development of the young children in the family.

Hilltop's Early Head Start benefits tremendously from its partnership with NDEHS, according to education coordinator Melissa Irwin. She notes that New Directions "sets the standard for the center's other three programs for children and is an integral part of everything we do here. It supports materials that enhance learning in young children and training that allows the staff to grow and become a better model for the children."



February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Chinese New Year Valentine's Day	Presidents' Day	Mardi Gras	Ash Wednesday			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
20				17 18 19 20 21	F S M 1 2 1 8 9 7 8	
28			1/2	31		

Preparing the Next Generation of Self-Advocates and Activists

"Set your goals, be persistent, assert yourself, practice advocacy, take steps to do what you want to do, and share ideas."

This was the advice Megan Pell gave to the 20 teens and young adults who participated in Junior Partners in Policymaking (JPIP) in June 2009. Megan, a University of Delaware doctoral student and a CDS graduate assistant, served as the



JPIP participants enjoy an outing on the UD campus.

next generation of advocates gained knowledge and skills needed to help establish or change policies. They discovered that it is often people with disabilities and their families who become the most influential change agents in disability policy and legislation.

The six-day program culminated with JPIP participants observing the

program's coordinator. JPIP educates young people with disabilities about public policy and encourages them to become their own advocates for change. The program, coordinated by CDS and offered every two years by the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council, also includes students without disabilities who are interested in public policy and advocacy.

By attending workshops on topics such as assertiveness, self-determination, and government processes, this

legislative process through a tour of Legislative Hall in Dover and a meeting with Representative Richard Cathcart. After living and learning together on the UD campus for close to a week, these teens and young adults left the program with increased confidence about making changes in their own lives – and in the lives of others with disabilities – and with greater awareness about the importance of becoming a partner in policymaking.

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Daylight Savings Time Begins			St. Patrick's Day			First Day of Spring
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Legislative Disability Event			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Passover First Seder			FEBRUARY 2 S M T W T 1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25	F S M 5 6 - - 12 13 4 5 - 19 20 11 12 -	T W T F S 1 2 3 3 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24
28	29	30	31	28		27 28 29 30

UD Students are on their Way to Changing the World

Students enrolled in the Disabilities Studies minor at the University of Delaware are taking the first step in changing how the world views people with disabilities. The curriculum emphasizes such disability-related issues as personcentered planning, equality of opportunity, full participation, advocacy, and public policy.

Many students in the minor gain valuable "hands-on" experience through their involvement in CDS programs, including Artfest, Junior Partners in Policymaking (JPIP), and the Summer Transition Education Program (STEP). The students make authentic connections with people who have disabilities, and their families, while enabling the Center to offer personalized supports to program participants.

Denise Jenkins, a senior elementary education major, helped with STEP and JPIP and noted, "In STEP, I got the opportunity to work with young adults who are trying to reach their goals. These students blew me away with their self-determination and their drive to get where they want to in life. Not only did I learn a lot and gain experience from these programs, I had so much fun while doing it!"

One of the biggest benefits of the Disabilities Studies minor is its ability to reach out to students across disciplines. In the 2008-2009 school year, there were 176



Denise Jenkins (center) toured Legislative Hall with two Junior Partners in Policymaking participants.

students enrolled in the minor – more than triple the number of students in January 2006 – representing more than 15 different majors. While many of these students will work directly with people with disabilities in their chosen professions, those who do not will nonetheless bring a more inclusive perspective to their personal and professional lives.

April	2010					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 20 S M T W T 1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 28 29 30 31	F S M 5 6 12 13 2 3 19 20 9 10 1	T W T F S 1 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29		1	Good Friday	3
Easter 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10	10	20	Administrative Professionals Day	Earth Day	22	2.4
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	200

Facilitating the Transition from Youth to Adulthood

Amidst the transition to adult life, the hopes, dreams, and uncertainties confronting young adults also affect their families. It's a time that's both exciting and frightening.

The path to adulthood for young adults with disabilities and their families is usually more difficult, due to the striking differences between the service systems for children and adults. Cory Nourie, Patient Transition Social Work Coordinator at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, suggests:

"Preparations for health care transitions should begin early in adolescence, not right before a young adult is going to be discharged from pediatric services."

The Center for Disabilities Studies is committed to helping individuals and families bridge life passages successfully. In the past year:

- STEP (Summer Transition Education Program) provided the opportunity for 12 teens with disabilities – twice the number as the previous year – to set goals and begin their journey to greater independence (*see photos below*).
- CBEA (Community-based Education Alliance) helped 18- to 21-year-old students develop vocational, education, recreation, and daily living skills in programs held on the University of Delaware campus.
- The Delaware Family to Family Health Information Center staff, all parents of children with special health care needs or disabilities, empowered other families in similar circumstances to advocate on behalf of their children and helped them navigate the transition from the pediatric health care system into the world of adult health services.



May 2010

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APRIL 20 7 S M T W T 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29	F S M 2 3 3 9 10 6 7 5 16 17 13 14 1 2 3 24 20 21 2	JNE 2010 T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30				1
2	2	National Teachers Day	Cinco de Mayo	Inclusion Conference Dover, Delaware	7	0
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mother's Day	10	11	Nurses Day	13	14	Armed Forces Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24					University of Delaware Spring Commencement
30	Memorial Day 31	25	26	27	28	29

Partnerships Pave the Way to Accessible Health Care

In 2009, CDS' Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities (HDWD) and the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC) partnered to survey mammography facilities in Delaware about their accessibility to people with disabilities. Funding for the Delaware Mammography Accessibility Project was provided by the Avon Foundation Breast Care Fund.

As part of this initiative, all mammography facilities received an action plan to help them improve their accessibility and to raise awareness about the needs of individuals with disabilities. HDWD staff members are available to provide technical assistance to help facilities achieve their accessibility goals. An online guide to mammography facilities in Delaware, with information about accessible features, will be available in January 2010 at **www.gohdwd.org** and **www.debreastcancer.org**.

"This is a great example of a partnership that is bringing about true change and improving the accessibility of health care facilities. Mammography sites are just the beginning,"

says Ilka Riddle, HDWD project director.

The HDWD Advisory Council is a partner in promoting health and wellness in people with disabilities and identifying effective intervention strategies that reduce health disparities between people with disabilities and the general population. The council is composed of



self-advocates, parents, advocacy groups, and state and community organizations.

The advisory council helped develop the *Plan for Action:* A Strategic Plan for Delaware to Promote Health and Prevent Secondary Health Conditions in Individuals with Disabilities. This plan is a blueprint for legislators, policymakers, state agencies, community organizations, and individuals with disabilities and their family members to improve the health and well-being of Delawareans with disabilities.

June 2010

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Accessible Instructional Materials Help Overcome Print Barriers

Children cannot learn if they cannot access the curriculum. Because current educational approaches depend heavily on textbooks and other print materials, students with vision loss, dyslexia, language learning disabilities, attention difficulties, or motor limitations are at a disadvantage.

"Although federal special education law mandates that students with print disabilities must have alternative ways to access information from print materials, we estimate that thousands of Delaware students have yet to benefit from this federal requirement," states CDS Director Beth Mineo, who is working on Delaware's Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) efforts.

One approach to overcoming print barriers involves delivering content in entirely different formats, such as converting print content into audio files or Braille documents. The other approach modifies the delivery of print in such a way that students can more easily access it. Examples include altering the appearance of the print by making it larger, changing the font, increasing the "white space" on the page, or decreasing the distractions on the page; providing an audio supplement to the text so that a student both sees it and hears it; or delivering print content with the support of a text reader (such as Kurzweil) that provides highlighting, supported horizontal tracking, word definitions, and other supports.

Delaware is one of 15 states awarded federal funding to improve access to print materials. CDS is partnering with the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) to help students, families, educators, and administrators understand the value of Accessible Instructional Materials and the ways to match student needs to various print alternatives.

A committed group of Delaware educators is working to improve print access, and an item will soon be added to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) form that prompts the educational team to consider each student's print access needs.

CDS will continue to work closely with DOE in the coming years to streamline student access to AIM in appropriate formats.

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	25				2	6				27	7			28	29	30	31

Accessible Recreation Leads to Fun and Healthy Lifestyles

Imagine how excited you'd be if you were taking your first bike ride at age 28, the age when Tara Bustard took a spin on a Rifton adaptive tricycle at Bellevue State Park. Tara's difficulties with balance prevented her from riding a typical two-wheeler when she was



growing up, so she was thrilled to have this accessible recreation opportunity at the June 2009 celebration of the trike's donation to the park. Businesses, state agencies, and nonprofit groups that are committed to healthy lifestyles for all collaborated to add this tricycle to the park's fleet of free rental bikes.

Terri Hancharick, a Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities: Bridging the Gap (HDWD) staff member at CDS who is also the parent of an adult daughter with disabilities and a member of the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC), got the wheels rolling on this project. She simply asked Rifton Equipment of New York, a company that designs and sells adaptive equipment, to donate this specially-designed tricycle, and they said "yes."

"This is just one bike in one park, but the outpouring of kindness and collaboration among so many agencies and organizations has been monumental in these trying economic times," Terri said in her remarks to Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn and dozens of others who attended the presentation.

She thanked State Parks, GACEC, CDS, Developmental Disabilities Council, State Council for Persons with Disabilities, Bicycle Council of Delaware, Rifton Equipment Company, Urban Bike Project, Office of Highway Safety, and Delaware Family to Family Health Information Center for their support.

August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Ramadan Begins			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				Women's Equality Day		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	23	2 .		JULY 201	0 SEP	TEMBER 2010
				S M T W T 4 5 6 7 8	2 3 9 10 5 6	T W T F S 1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11
29	30	31	AWA Dr		2 23 24 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 28 29 30

Accessibility Eases the Way to Full Inclusion

It's okay to treat a friend with a disability like you would any other friend; not with pity but with brotherhood.

This is one of the messages of *Darius Goes West,* a documentary about Darius Weems, a young man who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). At a March 2009 screening of the film at the University of Delaware, sponsored by CDS and a host of partners, close to 100 people learned that sometimes "brotherhood" and full participation means getting treated just like "one of the guys."

In their cross-country travels with Darius, his crew of friends encouraged him to try wasabi, an extremely

strong-flavored condiment. Darius' experience with what he called "goslabi" was both the funniest scene in the award-winning documentary and the most poignant. It contrasted with the obstacles to inclusion Darius faces in so many places; he uses a wheel chair because of loss of muscle strength. At times, his friends resorted to ingenious, if unconventional, solutions to accessibility problems – problems that otherwise would have prevented Darius from experiencing everything their road trip had to offer.



Darius and his crew of friends visit UD in their "Goslabi" shirts.

In addition to raising awareness about accessibility, Darius and his friends are raising funds for scientific research to find a cure for DMD. While a cure may come too late for 20-year-old Darius, his mission is to contribute as much as he can to fighting the disease for the next generation and to encourage others with disabilities to live their lives to the fullest.

Learn how you can purchase the documentary and help their efforts at **www.dariusgoeswest.org**.

September 2010

Sunday	Sunday Monday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST 20 S M T W T 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31 31	F S M S 6 7 7 7 7 2 13 14 3 4 7 0 20 21 10 11 1 5 27 28 17 18 1	T W T F S 1 2 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 2 13 14 15 16 9 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30	1	2	3	4
5	Labor Day	7	0	Rosh Hashanah	Eid al-Fitr (Ramadan ends) 10	Patriot Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	
Grandparents Day 12	13	14	15	16	17	Yom Kippur
10	20	21	22	First Day of Autumn	Native American Day	25
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Swank Employment Initiative Focuses on Person-centered Planning

When David, Brian, and Aaron were hired by the University of Delaware Facilities Department grounds crew as the first participants in the Swank internship program, they were positioned for success. That's because the Swank Employment Initiative embraces the person-centered planning model.

Person-centered planning is a process that focuses on the interests and capabilities of an individual with disabilities. It weaves together resources and supports that will lead to employment success and personal satisfaction.

Swank staff members worked closely with each of the three young men to develop a personal profile and an individualized plan for employment. When they were accepted as interns, it was because they were well-

suited for the job, not just because they were available. Their subsequent job success was enhanced by the person-centered coaching and encouragement of Swank team members, as well as the support of their co-workers on the grounds crew.

David summed up his internship experience by saying, "It gives me pleasure to wake up in the morning, to be responsible."



Wendy Claiser provides job coaching for two Swank interns as they care for the newly established landscaping around UD's Independence Hall complex.

The Center for Disabilities Studies' innovative model of person-centered service delivery is made possible by funding from the Howard W. Swank, Alma K. Swank and Richard Kemper Swank Foundation. According to Swank Program Coordinator Wendy Claiser, this model presumes that people with disabilities are integral, productive members of society and that employment services should be built on a person's unique strengths and passions.

October 2010

Sunday Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER S M T W T 1 2 2 2 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30	F S M 3 4 1 10 11 7 8 5 17 18 14 15 1 8 24 25 21 22 2	EMBER 2010 T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30		ICK AT	1	2
2		F		7	National Children's Day	0
3	4 Columbus Day	5	6	7	8	9
1.0		1.0	1.0		4.5	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			Disability Mentoring Day			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
United Nations Day 24						
Halloween 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Assistive Technology Empowers All People

The Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI) connects Delawareans who have disabilities with the tools they need in order to learn, work, play, and participate in community life safely and independently. DATI provides funding information and loans; coordinates a used equipment recycling program; publishes resource materials; and operates an Assistive Technology Resource Center in each Delaware county. These centers offer equipment demonstrations and loans at no cost to their customers.

DATI also conducts outreach activities in the community, often for people who never thought they would need assistive technology (AT) devices. For example, DATI's AT specialists exhibit annually at the state's three largest events for seniors; their goal is to increase awareness of the AT services that are available throughout Delaware. At these expos, older adults learn that AT devices can help them retain or regain skills they need to live life on their terms.

"Anything that makes a task easier to complete is assistive technology. AT can range from low-cost, low-tech adaptations such as pencil grips and jar openers to expensive, state-of-the-art devices such as CCTVs (closed circuit televisions) and computer software, " notes Sussex County AT Specialist Dan Fendler.



Dan Fendler demonstrates how a CCTV enlarges print for people with visual impairment.

AT specialists interacted with nearly 2,000 older adults at the three senior expos held last year. When participants tried out devices designed to help with daily living activities, they discovered just how empowering assistive technology can be.

Information about all of DATI's services and AT devices can be found at its website, **www.dati.org**.

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	Election Day	3	4	5	6
Daylight Savings Time Ends				Veterans Day		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice)				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Thanksgiving Day		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				OCTOBER 2 S M T W 1 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 22	F S M 1 2 5 6 2 8 9 5 6 4 15 16 12 13	EMBER 2010 T W T F S 1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25
28	29	30			8 29 30 26 27	

Picturing the Possibilities with Chauvet-generated Images

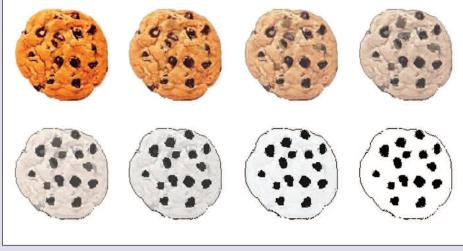
Children are bombarded daily with pictures – in their schoolwork, on television, and in books and magazines. Pictures are also used in many ways with children who have disabilities, such as in assessment tests, therapy materials, and in devices that provide an alternate means of communicating with the world for children who do not speak.

"Although pictures are everywhere, we have a lot to learn about how children interpret them, especially those that are complex or abstract," explains CDS Director Beth Mineo, who has been studying children's understanding and use of picture-related phenomena for many years. This is particularly critical in children who may have visual processing difficulties that interfere with their perception of color, shape, or motion. Some children can understand concepts only if they are pictured in realistic photographic form, while others can understand and use small blackand-white line drawings.

In conjunction with a team of computer scientists, Beth developed a prototype tool called Chauvet that tailors pictures to children's preferences and abilities. With a digital camera, images meaningful to the child can be captured from the environment. The computer system then generates sequences of pictures – ranging from very realistic to more abstract – that can be incorporated into a

communication device, a software application, or instructional materials in the classroom.

With funding from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs, Beth and her team will use the images generated by Chauvet with children from Delaware and elsewhere to document how customized graphics help youngsters with disabilities to learn language and express themselves more effectively.



This Chauvet-generated sequence of images ranges from realistic photos to abstract line drawings.

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 2 S M T W T 1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 28 29 30 5	F S M S 5 6 - - - 12 13 2 3 - 19 20 9 10 1 26 27 16 17 1	UARY 2011 T W T F S 1 4 5 6 7 8 1 12 13 14 15 8 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29	Hanukkah First Candle	2	3	4
		Delaware Day Muharram (Islamic New Year)				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.0		First Day of Winter				Christmas Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29	30	New Year's Eve	

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Additional Highlights July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

• CDS co-sponsored the first-ever **Forum on Dental Care for Persons with Disabilities** in August 2008 to address issues and potential solutions surrounding dental care for persons with disabilities. One of these issues was resolved through legislation passed by the Delaware General Assembly in June 2009, with encouragement from concerned families: "In-network" restrictions were removed for families that have private dental insurance for a child with a severe disability.

• Through its involvement with the Delaware Caregivers Support Coalition, CDS helped establish and secure funding for the **Delaware Lifespan Respite Information Network**, which is now offering information, referral, and financial aid for families in need of respite care (**www.delrespite.org**).

• Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities: Bridging the Gap (HDWD) conducted public sessions in each of Delaware's three counties in October 2008 to obtain feedback about its strategic plan. HDWD issued 20 e-mail news letters to its partners – a total of 1160 messages – with information about policy, research, funding opportunities, and events related to health and disability.





• Through **individualized support programs** that focus on developing skills for greater independence, CDS provided 1,720 hours of person-centered coaching supports to young adults with disabilities. Coaches also mentored members of **Community Connectors.** This unique program provides young adults with opportunities to learn leadership skills at monthly meetings, social events with their peers, and community involvement. Members used their leadership skills to plan and implement two community service activities last year: they prepared breakfast for residents of the Ronald McDonald House and organized a food drive to benefit the Food Bank of Delaware.



• CDS delivered **professional training** and seminars on a wide range of topics to more than 200 individuals with disabilities, their families, caregivers, and the professionals who support them. Included were workshops that promote independence for individuals with disabilities, with related information provided for their parents and caregivers, and sessions to enhance the skills of the professionals that serve them.

• CDS provided leadership, as well as financial support, for several of the state's most prominent **disability-re-lated conferences**, including:

- Understanding Developmental Disabilities and End-of-Life Issues Conference
- LIFE Conference XI
- 15th Annual Inclusion Conference
- 4th Annual Conference for Direct Support Professionals

During the 2008-2009 school year:

• **New Directions Early Head Start** served 108 children in four community-based centers and 95 children and 26 pregnant women through its homebased programs.

• The **Positive Behavior Support** (PBS) project, a collaboration between CDS and the Delaware Department of Education, supported 132 schools in 15 different districts (approximately 63% of all Delaware schools) to develop positive learning environments and prevent problem behaviors. 150 schools participated in the Delaware School Climate Survey, which was conducted to gather staff, student, and parent perceptions of school climate.

• The **Delaware Alternate Portfolio Assessment** (DAPA) project offered 17 professional development sessions for more than 330 educators completing the alternate assessment. Various technical assistance opportunities were offered, including support sessions and a more



formal screening process. Over 30 screening sessions gave teachers the opportunity to receive feedback on their portfolios. A total of 1,050 student portfolios were reviewed across 270 individual screening appointments. In addition, training was provided to educators interested in participating in the scoring process; 22 of the 55 educators who participated in scoring training were selected to score approximately 1,200 portfolios. All professional development activities emphasized both an understanding of the alternate assessment and the necessity of access to the general education curriculum for all students.

Community Advisory Council

The Center for Disabilities Studies benefits from its partnership with the Community Advisory Council. CAC members are individuals with developmental and related disabilities who serve as self-advocates; parents and other family members of individuals with developmental disabilities; representatives from disability-related training, service, and advocacy organizations; state agency representatives; and others who advocate on behalf of people with disabilities.

Current CAC Members

Marie-Anne Aghazadian Parent Information Center of Delaware

Judy Brimer, Secretary Parent

Lisa Carnley Parent

Ernest Cole Freedom Center for Independent Living

Ruth Coughlan Special Olympics Delaware

Aaron Deede Self-advocate

Deborah Cole Dunlap Parent

Russ Dynes Parent

Micki Edelsohn Parent

Caitlin Gamel-McCormick DFRC

Judy Govatos The Arc of Delaware

Andrea Guest Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Brian Hartman Delaware Disabilities Law Program

Linda Heller,

Second Vice Chairperson Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Kyle Hodges State Council for Persons with Disabilities

Kevin Huckshorn Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Yolanda Jenkins Division of Child Mental Health Services

Dan Keating Bancroft NeuroHealth

Patricia Maichle Developmental Disabilities Council

Karen Mancini University of Delaware Office of Disabilities Support Services

Melissa Tice Martin Lower Delaware Autism Foundation

Raetta McCall Advocate

Daniese McMullin-Powell Self-advocate

Maria Mendoza Parent



CDS Director Beth Mineo (left) meets with Laurie Nicoli, CAC Chairperson, to review orientation materials for council members.

David Michalik Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance

Laurie Nicoli, Chairperson Parent

Elizabeth Nolan, *At-large Representative* Self-advocate

Cory Ellen Nourie Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children

Terry Olson Mosaic, Inc.

Monika Shafi Parent

Karen Smith Division of Developmental Disabilities Services Martha Toomey Department of Education

Bob Valihura, *First Vice Chairperson* Advocate

Rocio Viscarra Self-advocate

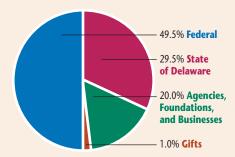
Members whose service concluded during the past year

Ann Grunert Peg Hirsch Michael Kelleher Tom Kelly Rita Landgraf Alfred Onuonga Paul Poplawski Marianne Smith

Funding and Financials

The Center for Disabilities Studies had an operating budget of \$5,171,012 from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. In addition to the operating budget, CDS received support from the University of Delaware valued at \$264,380.

Sources of funding:



Funders

AARP

APS Health Care

American Express

ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources)

Antone Aboud Associates, Inc.

Arizona University Center on Disabilities

Autism Society of Delaware

Back to Basics

Bancroft NeuroHealth

C.E.R.T.S., Inc.

College of Direct Support

Chesapeake Care Resources

Chimes Delaware

Christina School District—Delaware Autism Program

The Columbus Organization

Community Provider for Enrichment Services, Inc.

Council on Quality and Leadership

Delaware Department of Health and Social Services:

- Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
- Division of Public Health
- Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Disabilities
- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- Division for the Visually Impaired

Delaware Department of Education

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

Delaware Department of Labor—Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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Governors Council on Developmental Disabilities Arizona

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National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services

Navigant

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PrecisionCare Software, Inc.

Red Clay Consolidated School District Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Sonoran UCEDD Swank Foundation

Therap Services, LLC

Therapeutic Options

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

- Administration for Children and Families
- Administration on Developmental Disabilities
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Institutes of Health through Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Gifts

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Like the donors listed above, you can enhance the lives of people with disabilities in Delaware by making a gift to the Center for Disabilities Studies. All gifts to CDS are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. To learn about the many ways to give, please visit the "Giving" page on the University of Delaware's website, **www.udel.edu/development**.

2011 Calendar

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Beth Mineo, Ph.D., Director

(as of November 1, 2009)

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About the 2010 Calendar Artwork

The artwork in this calendar was created at Artfest, an annual Center for Disabilities Studies event that brings together people of all abilities, University of Delaware students with a minor in disabilities studies, other UD students, and volunteers. Led by art therapist Lisa Bartoli and her assistant, Shila Vora, of the Art Therapy Express Program, Inc., Artfest 2009 participants used stencils, novel implements, and adaptive devices to create works of art. Photos of the artists are part of this calendar and can also be found, along with photos of the artwork, on our online gallery, **www.udel.edu/cds/art**. The Art Therapy Express Program is located at Lisa Bartoli's Kaleidoscope Studio at New Castle County's Absalom Jones Community Center in Newport, Delaware. It is an instructional art education and therapy program that allows children, teenagers, and adults to explore alternative means of communication through the arts (see **www.arttherapyexpress.org**).



Center for Disabilities Studies • University of Delaware College of Education and Public Policy 461 Wyoming Road • Newark, DE 19716 302.831.6974 voice • 302.831.4689 TDD • www.udel.edu/cds

