

Mineo named director of UD's Center for Disabilities Studies



Sept. 15, 2008----Beth Mineo has been appointed the new director of UD's Center for Disabilities Studies, Michael Gamel-McCormick, interim dean of the College of Human Services, Education and Public Policy, announced. "I am very pleased to have Beth as director as she will do a marvelous job in moving its research and service forward," Gamel-McCormick said.

A scientist in UD's Center for Applied Science and Engineering, a multidisciplinary center focused on the intersection of technology and disability, Mineo will bring many of her projects with her.

"We are working with the Delaware Department of Education and the Division of Visually Impaired to meet the needs of persons with print disabilities. These may be people with cognitive or visual disabilities, and we plan to build up an infrastructure statewide to assist them," Mineo said.

Another research project involves teaching youngsters who are not yet symbolic communicators to understand and use pictures of varying complexities.

Mineo also is the director of the Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI). DATI provides assistive devices from canes to computer hardware and software to persons with disabilities. Mineo said she plans to integrate DATI's programs and services into the Center for Disabilities Studies, whose goal is to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Mineo, an associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, has a joint appointment in linguistics and cognitive science.

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Mineo has a master's degree in speech pathology and doctorate in communications disorders from the University of Pittsburgh. Her research interests are language development and disorders, and she has published widely on assistive technology, accessible teaching materials and accessible housing. She was instrumental in establishing a speech-language pathology concentration at UD.

Mineo has received grants from the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Article by Sue Moncure

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