

Succeeding in the real world

As a student last year in CDS's **Career and Life Studies Certificate (CLSC)** program, Kristen Shields found time to educate the educators.

Her CLSC classmate Mike Massello chose to educate his peers.

Shields and Massello are two of the many students from CDS-led college programs for UD students with disabilities who decided to apply skills and lessons they learned to advocate for disability acceptance and community inclusion.

“When students give of themselves to help other people, it empowers them and creates an impactful image for others,” says Brian Freedman, who directs CDS's **Transition, Education and Employment Model**.

Shields presented on a panel at a **national conference** in Reno, Nev., for university professionals to discuss her personal and social growth while living in an inclusive UD residence hall. She told audience members to be “open minded to [opportunities]” available to their students.

Massello shared his perspective on life as a person with an intellectual disability with students enrolled in UD's **Disability Studies minor**. He liked sharing his life story with others on campus, he says, because it showed them that “no matter what disability somebody has, they can overcome their challenges and succeed in the real world.”



Kristen Shields in front of Memorial Hall on UD's Newark campus.