

The North Dakota Center for  
Persons with Disabilities

# annual

report 2011-2012



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Available in alternate format upon request.

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# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## From the Director

Brent A. Askvig, PhD  
Executive Director



The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Minot State University, has completed 22 years of service, education, research, and information dissemination to the citizens of our state. Started as a satellite University Affiliated Program of the Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities in 1990, NDCPD has grown to be an active and influential partner in the upper Great Plains. The fiscal year 2011-2012 was a successful year, but not without significant challenges. The oil industry continued to have a huge impact on communities in central and western North Dakota. Housing was often not available for those on limited incomes. Housing prices rose over 2 1/2 times in the past two years making affordable housing less and less available for persons with disabilities. In addition, the influx of oil workers has strained community services such as police, fire, medical, schools, and roads.

North Dakota has low unemployment, a large budget surplus, and low taxes, but limited funding to support those with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities who need community services, whether specialized or generic, are often at risk of being disenfranchised because of our economic conditions. It is within this environment that our UCEDD staff worked hard to develop programs, projects, and advocacy to support the needs of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Two North Dakota cities are still recovering from devastating floods. In 2011 Bismarck was flooded by the Missouri River, and Minot was flooded by the Souris River. NDCPD worked closely with local and state agencies to assure that citizens with disabilities were afforded realistic and responsible assistance from state and federal responders during these events. We especially want to recognize our NDCPD early intervention staff who worked tirelessly to support many families who were impacted by the floods. These staff hardly missed a day in providing home-based early intervention services, even when families were displaced. Thank you!

This report provides an overview and summary of NDCPD work in the areas of Interdisciplinary Pre-Service Education, Community Services, Research, and Information Dissemination. Our staff have done an outstanding job and reached thousands of constituents in our state.

This past year was also a time to work on our core application and new five year plan. The aforementioned issues were well in mind as we developed our five year plan. We came up with four thematic areas: community inclusion; healthy citizens; self-advocacy; and workforce development. We look forward to implementing activities to make the future brighter and better for North Dakotans with disabilities.

## The MISSION of NDCPD is:

To provide service, education, and research which empowers communities to welcome, value and support the well-being and quality of life for people of all ages and abilities.

## Our VISION is that:

- People with disabilities have the right to expect that services they receive will appropriately promote their independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion.
- People with disabilities have the same rights as all citizens.
- People with all abilities will be included in all aspects of life and receive services they need.

## The Consumer Advisory Council 2011-2012

Deanna Bakken

Sheryl Bear

Gloria Chavez

Rhoda Colyer

Jane Haerter

Chennette' Jelleberg

Jami Kirkland

Pam Mack

Jane Nelson

Marilyn Nelson

Norma Nichols

Sherris Richards

Carla Tice

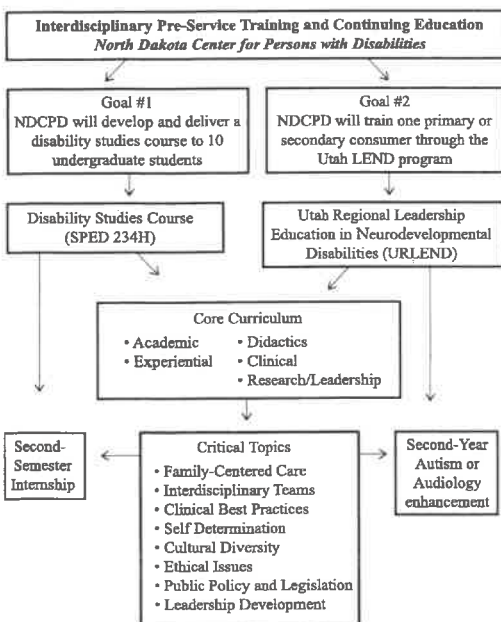
Deborah Unruh

Eric Wittlif

Nelrene Yellow Bird

# INTERDISCIPLINARY PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

The United States Census Bureau has classified Americans with disabilities as the largest minority population segment. Approximately 56.7 million individuals (19 percent of the United States population) had a disability in 2010 and the number of people with disabilities can be expected to increase dramatically in the coming decades. In order to be responsive to these demographics the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) offers two interdisciplinary pre-service training programs to prepare undergraduate students and practicing professionals to become leaders and advocates in the disability field. These two programs are Disability in Society (a disabilities studies course for Minot State University students) and Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (URLEND), a collaborative partnership with the Utah Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University to train professionals from disability-related disciplines as well as individuals with disabilities and their family members. The structure of NDCPD's two interdisciplinary pre-service training programs is shown in the figure below.



## Disability in Society: A disability studies course for Minot State University students

In the fall of 2011, fifteen Minot State University students enrolled in the disability studies class. Majors of these students included Psychology, Social Work, Addiction Studies, Communication Disorders, Elementary Education, and Special Education. Four of these students were selected to participate in an extended internship during the spring semester. These students gained interdisciplinary and leadership skills through activities such as shadowing staff on NDCPD projects, attending URLEND didactic sessions, developing materials and resources, writing articles for project newsletters, and observing interdisciplinary clinics in the Minot community.



## Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities *A collaborative partnership with the Utah Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University*

NDCPD supported two professional trainees and one family trainee to participate in Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (URLEND) training activities. In order to expand statewide capacity, the 2011-2012 URLEND trainees were professionals from outside of the Minot community. One of the professional trainees was an occupational therapist who was also the coordinator of related services. The other professional trainee was a special educator who was also responsible for coordinating educational services in south central North Dakota. The family trainee was the parent of a child with multiple disabilities and was also the patient coordinator for a medical home practice in her community. Trainees had opportunities to attend didactic sessions, to complete research and leadership activities, and to observe disability specialty clinics in Utah and North Dakota.

Through a collaborative agreement with the Minnesota LEND training program, the North Dakota professional trainees also had opportunities to observe at several disability clinics in Minnesota. In addition, the family trainee participated in a parent-directed consultation. During this virtual interdisciplinary clinic, URLEND professional trainees from a wide array of disciplines and sites connected via distance technology to provide individualized information and resources related to concerns that the family trainee shared about her daughter. For the family trainee, the parent-directed consultation was especially valuable because she was able to gather information related to her daughter's complex health care needs without having to leave her rural community. In addition, because of their leadership roles in their respective disability organizations, all three of the URLEND trainees noted how valuable it was to be able to incorporate URLEND content into their staff training presentations.

## RESEARCH

### NDCPD's interdisciplinary internship: reflections by Rachael Kelly

*"After taking Disability in Society (SPED 234H), I had an opportunity to complete an internship in the spring of 2012 with the Perceptions Project through the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities. My internship with the Perceptions Project really helped me to implement the topics that I learned in class. Because I have grown up with a younger brother who has Asperger Syndrome, I am very aware of what people with disabilities have to deal with every day because of the misperceptions of people who don't understand what they're going through. In my internship with NDCPD's Perceptions Project, I was able to help develop curriculum for youth that is geared toward erasing those misperceptions and replacing them with accurate information. Because of the disability awareness curriculum that the Perceptions Project is developing, I believe that North Dakota children and youth will become more understanding and accepting of the students with disabilities whom they encounter in their school years and beyond."*

### Access Scholarship Winners

*Recipients of \$300 each:*

Amanda Redfern  
Alicia Gordan  
Bradley Bingen

NDCPD completed a number of needs assessments and program evaluations this past year. We continued to support the ND Department of Public Instruction, Office of Special Education in the quarterly evaluation of their State Personnel Development Grant. Staff developed several studies and reports on the health status of ND citizens with disabilities. The Medicaid Infrastructure Grant completed a report on the perceptions of and use of Employment First strategies in ND community provider programs.

One research highlight was our work on a prototype for health information access. NDCPD staff worked with KAT Communications, a community and health multi-media company, to develop a prototype Universal Design for Learning system that allows touch screen access for individuals with intellectual disabilities. A computer program was developed that incorporated touch screen technology to access healthy eating information. The program, Color My Plate, was designed to incorporate a video, a text story, and a computer game, to teach methods of healthy eating. Data were collected on individuals with intellectual disabilities and their use of the system. Overall, they rated the system and access to the information high. They liked the game portion the most, but felt that the text story gave them the most content and information. NDCPD has now used that information for several technology and health grant proposals, the most recent being a statewide implementation of the system for adults and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### NDCPD Projects: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Adult Student Transition Education Program	ND Center for Persons with Disabilities – Core grant
Advancing Para Professional Leadership in Education Subcontract	ND Disability Health Project
Autism Spectrum Disorders Evaluation & Diagnostic Team	ND Early Hearing Detection Intervention
Books for Kids	ND Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Information System
Community Staff Training Project	ND Integrated Services
Connections	ND Medicaid Infrastructure Grant + Supplement
CSTP Accreditation Project	ND Senior Medicare Patrol Expansion
Get into Golf	ND Senior Medicare Patrol Supplement
Great Plains Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment Program III	ND Senior Medicare Patrol + Beneficiaries Access
Great Plains Interdisciplinary Autism Diagnostic Clinic	ND Senior Medicare Patrol
Implications Study on Oil Boom	Prairie Mental Health Project
Infant Development Staff Training	Reading First External Evaluator Project
Medical Home Care Coordination	Region II Early Intervention Team
Minot City Transportation	Right Track
Minot Infant Development Program	Self-Advocacy Through Technology
Money Follows Person Housing Program	State Professional Development Grant Evaluator Project
Mythbuster: Public Perceptions	Supporting Autism in North Dakota
National Center on Physical Activity and Disabilities	Technical Assistance for Childcare Providers
	The Perceptions Project

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

*NDCPD strives to provide quality and informative direct services and supports to people with disabilities of all ages and their families to minimize disparities in health care, enhance educational opportunities, and develop skills for independent living. Examples of our work include direct services to infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, workshops and webinars, international collaborations, and training and technical assistance.*

## Services to Infants and Toddlers

The Minot Infant Development program served 171 families from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. During this time, our staff conducted 284 Individualized Family Service Plans, 291 evaluations, 3,558 home visits, and 358 consultations. Virtual Home Visits also allowed interventionists to videoconference with families when distance or inclement weather would have otherwise prohibited a visit.

### Quotes from families enrolled in the Minot Infant Development Program:

*"We felt that our child's best interest was always at heart. Thank you!"*

*"We are all so thankful that we found the MIDP program. Our interventionist was by far the most wonderful person to work with our son. She loved him dearly and he learned so much from her!"*

*"We are very happy with this incredible program."*

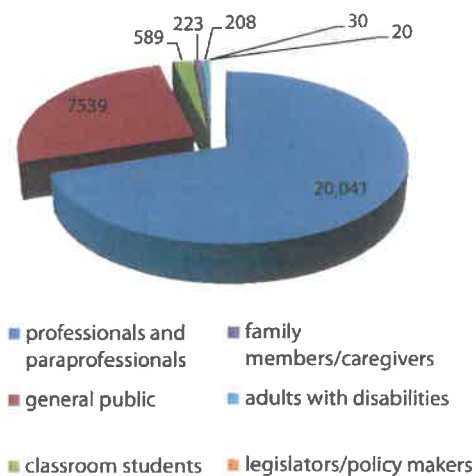
## Webinar Series for 2011-2012

Approximately 750 educators, service providers, family members, and advocates participated in the NDCPD Webinar Series this year. Topics included: PDAs, Smartphones and Tablet PCs as Cognitive Behavioral Aids in Autism; Seizure Disorders/More Than They Seem; Sexuality Education for Individuals with Cognitive Disorders; Working with ND Tribal Communities; and Positive Behavior Supports for Individuals with ASD.

## ASD Diagnostic Services

This past year, 15 children were evaluated in diagnostic clinics. Nearly 40 families received services and trainings in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorders. In addition, Autism project staff made classroom observations and follow up recommendations that directly impacted the students, professionals, and families within the school.

Direct or Demonstration Services



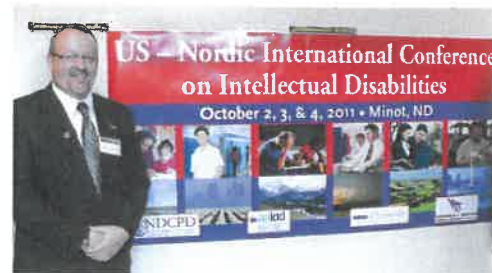
## International Outreach

On October 2 – 4, 2011, NDCPD hosted the US-Nordic International Conference on Intellectual Disabilities. This conference explored similarities and differences among US and Nordic countries across four critical themes – Organizational Perspectives and Health, Community Living, Employment, and School Inclusion. Over 60 international colleagues participated in this event.

NDCPD project directors and staff hosted a Russian delegation from the International Visitor Leadership Program. The visitors were very involved in working with volunteers; addressing social issues through policy, advocacy, and service; developing technology solutions; and establishing service delivery systems for rural areas.

## Prevention of Abuse and Neglect Training

Thirty-three Qualified Developmental Disabilities Professionals completed NDCPD's online Prevention of Abuse and Neglect online workshop.



## State Conferences

NDCPD sponsored two statewide conferences on Autism Spectrum Disorders and co-sponsored the statewide conference for adult service providers. Over 750 direct support and other professionals from community providers, educators, international researchers, people with disabilities and their family members attended these events.



# INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

NDCPD staff produced numerous documents, reports, and products for dissemination to individuals with disabilities and their families. The Center communicates and shares information and research findings with a broad constituency and brings the most current findings to the communities we serve. NDCPD's dissemination highlights this year included:

- **7,176 website visits and 34,412 page views**
- **The NDCPD website** along with project web sites were accessed by consumers to register for training events and to access reports, newsletters, brochures, and other publications.
- **Projects developed 113 products.** During Fiscal Year 2012, NDCPD developed 113 products in 11 different types of formats. The majority of these products were newsletters, brochures, and reports. Of those 113 products, 66 different products were disseminated in various venues through mailings, conference booths, and other awareness activities. NDCPD faculty and staff disseminated a total of 25,086 items over the course of the year to individuals with disabilities, families, caregivers, service providers, educators, advocates, and policymakers.
- **Center projects expanded their use of social networking** technology using Facebook to keep families, constituents, and advocates informed of upcoming training dates and newly published resources.
- **The Center developed four issues of its newsletter *The Collaborator*** during this year. Each issue highlighted new projects, new products, best practices, and recent research; disability related issues; awards and recognitions (new grant awards, staff recognitions/awards, project/program recognitions); new NDCPD staff; upcoming training; and, service program activities.
- **Center staff gave presentations** on their work at over 100 international, national, state, and local events including the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) Conference, National Association of QMRPs Conference, National Aging in America Conference, Council for Exception Children, Pathfinder Parent Involvement Conference, ND Association of Community Providers, Tribal College, and local civic groups.

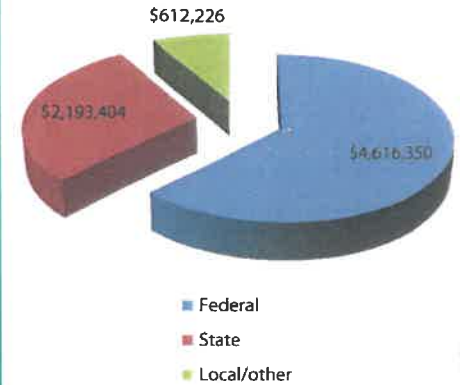


## Affiliation

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities is a federal University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Services (UCEDD). We have core funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, and belong to a network of 67 similarly established UCEDDs. NDCPD is housed at Minot State University under the Vice President for Academic Affairs. We are closely aligned with the College of Education and Health Sciences, with affiliations with the Departments of Special Education, Communication Disorders, Psychology, Addiction Studies and Social Work, and Nursing. NDCPD works closely with the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities and the ND Protection and Advocacy Project to address the needs of persons with disabilities related to independence, productivity, self-determination, and community inclusion.

## Funding at NDCPD

### NDCPD Grant Funding



For the 2011/2012 fiscal year, NDCPD leveraged \$7,421,980. Of that, 62% was from federal sources, 30% was from state and local sources, and 8% from other sources including foundations, service organizations, fee for service, and Minot State University.

### NDCPD Funding by Focus Area



In the 2011/2012 fiscal year, half of the projects supported by NDCPD provided service to the public. 25% of the projects provided instruction to community members, university students, and professionals across the state. NDCPD conducted research with another 12% of its projects.

