

NDCPD

1996 - 2000

Through the years

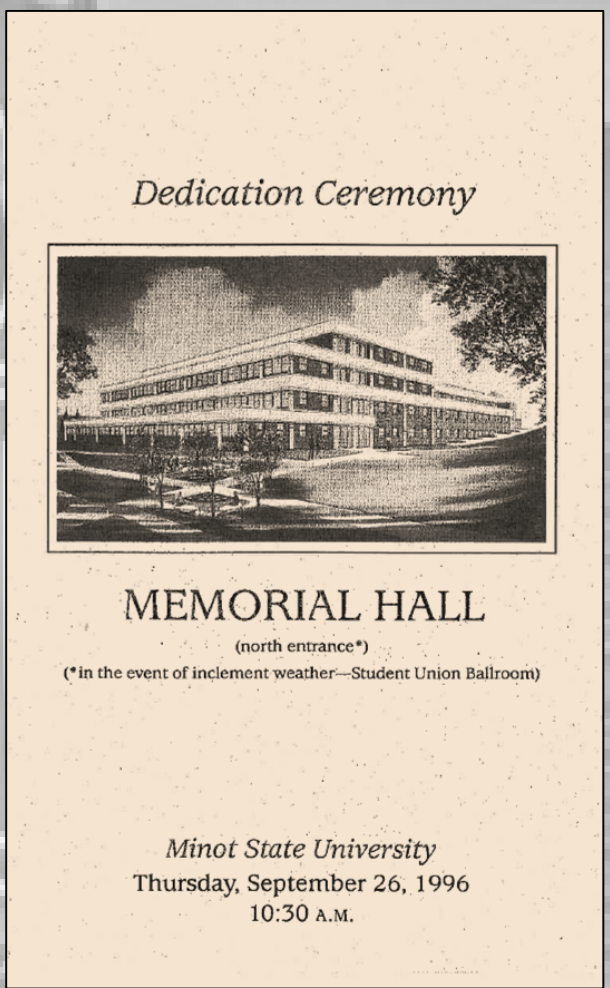


In 1996, Dr. Stephen Ragan announced his resignation. His preliminary work to establish the Center at Minot State University and his vision of how the Center should operate and evolve certainly transformed into a successful and important entity for the disability community. After Dr. Ragan left, Dr. Ferrara served as interim director until Dr. Bryce Fifiel was hired as the second Executive Director in December 1996.

Before Dr. Ragan left, he handed a Ram statue to Susie and told her, **"You've done a RAM good job!"** This award has remained within the Center and is passed from one employee to another recognizing their contributions and good work.



In September of 1996, MSU dedicated the newly renovated Memorial Hall. NDCD staff was the first to occupy space on the 2nd floor. Eventually, several other MSU academic departments including special education, psychology, communication disorders and nursing moved into the building.



In January of 1996, NDCD had their second federal site visit. The site reviewers included Dr. Carl Calkins (MO UAP), Dr. Keith Miller (WY UAP), Debbie Bowers, a consumer representative and staff from various state entities. The site visit was a success and staff were complimented on their organizational structure and growth, interdisciplinary training efforts, and work towards establishing positive relationships with state agencies.



One of Dr. Fifiel's first tasks was to develop a leadership structure to provide guidance to the staff, assure goals were met and secure future growth. Dr. David Williams, also the chair of MSU's Communication Disorders department, was appointed as an Associate Director for Clinical Services and Dr. Joe Ferrara was appointed as the Associate Director for Development.

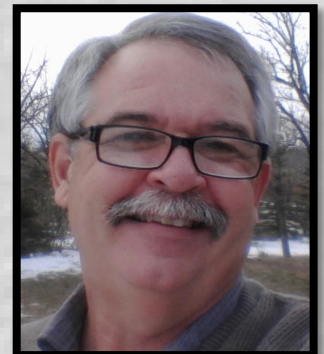


The office spaces designated for NDCD were, at that time, considerable in size and many staff wondered, "How will we ever fill all these offices?" Fast forward 10 years later (2006), the Center grew to the point of occupying every designated office space along with spilling over to offices on the 1st and 2nd floor of Memorial Hall and converting a classroom into cubicles.

Other leadership positions were identified. Dr. Fifiel recruited faculty from MSU departments to serve as Coordinators of the Center to facilitate the core functions of a UAP.



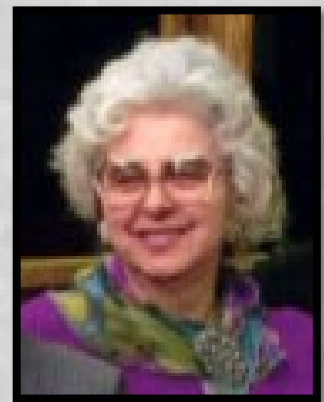
Dr. Rita Curl was a psychology professor in MSU's Psychology department and served as NDCD's Research Coordinator.



Dr. Mark Krumm was an audiology professor in MSU's Communication Disorders department and served as NDCD's Training Coordinator.



Dr. Brent Askvig was a professor from MSU's Special Education department and served as NDCD's Outreach & Technical Assistance Coordinator.



Dr. Audrey Lunday was a professor from MSU's Communication Disorders Department and served as NDCD's Clinical Services Coordinator.

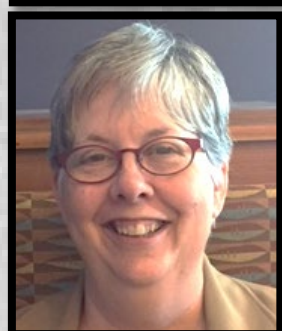
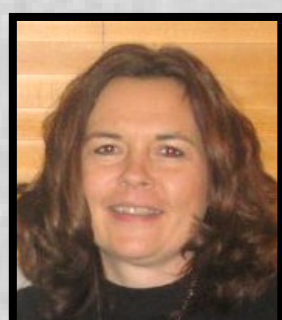


Last, two additional staff positions were developed to assist with finance and operations.

- Ms. Jonelle Watson, Finance
- Ms. Susie Mack, Operations



The Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) provided guidance to NDCPD staff. The council members included individuals with disabilities, family members and professionals. The CAC Liaisons were Sonja Enger and Cathy Haarstad.



1996 - 2000
111 Funded
Grants
& Contracts
\$10,837,807

MSU gets federal grants

\$217,000 starts language job-training program

Staff reports
The U.S. Department of Education has approved a \$217,000 grant to Minot State University to establish a language-training program that can be integrated in a job-training program.

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Dr. Ferrara and staff started writing grants for technology infrastructure and helped MSU obtain the first online course development grant. This effort led to several disability related technologies including online captioning, tele-speech therapy and others. The staff roster increased to around 40 members and the budgets saw tremendous growth. Many connections were established with state entities, community programs and schools.



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In 1997, a Charter was created between NDCPD and Minot State University. The charter outlined the points of agreement between NDCPD and MSU leadership including faculty appointed positions, indirect costs calculations and several other details. This charter was signed by MSU administration at that time, President Erik Shaar and Vice President James Croonquist, along with Dr. Fifiel, Executive Director.

In 1997, the Center's name was changed from the North Dakota Center for Disabilities (NDCD) to North Dakota Center **for Persons** with Disabilities (NDCPD). This modification was intended to bring the human aspect into the name for a more person-centered approach. In addition, a new logo was created to reflect this change.



Dr. Demetrios Vassiliou, Director of the CSTP Project, hosted two international conferences focused on developmental and intellectual disabilities, one in Greece and the other in the U.S.

Dr. M. Bryce Fifiel and the staff of North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities cordially invite you to an NDCPD Open House at Minot State University
Wednesday, February 5, 1997
1 o'clock P.M. — 4 o'clock P.M.
NDCPD Offices, Second Floor
Memorial Hall, MSU Campus
Please come and visit with our staff and acquaint yourself with the many projects NDCPD sponsors.
Refreshments will be served.

In February of 1997, NDCPD hosted an Open House for the MSU community, North Dakota agencies and the disability community commemorating the Center's growth and successes as they moved into the newly renovated Memorial Hall.